



EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April, 2016

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART— REV. SADEKIE LYTTLE-FORBES



I trust that the year so far has been a productive one and that you are achieving most of the goals you desire.

It has been a good year so far with Easter Services drawing our attention to God's love demonstrated on the Cross and the Victory of the Resurrection. We continue with our Spring Bible Study on Prayer, Journey through the Gospels and the beginning of



our Liturgical Dance Ministry. I am excited about the future.

Every now and again I come across a story that conveys in very nice ways, using a symbol, the image of the church as the body of Christ and the value of Christian fellowship and working together. I would like to share this story with you by Dr. John MacArthur called the "Lonely Ember" for your thoughts:

"A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

If you need to talk I can be easily reached by phone or email and there are many others who can respond to you, if you indicate your need. If you haven't come in a long time we will be happy to have you back where you belong. If you are unable to come, then receive our warmth and the love of Christ.



I extend to you blessings for the season and beyond:

May the Risen Christ, renew your spirit and refresh your soul,

May you rejoice and celebrate life everlasting.

Peace and wonder are yours to find as the blessing of the Lord be upon you... now and always.

CHAIR'S REPORT



I am honoured to be the Chair of Council, following in the footsteps of our past, very capable chair, **Mary Dagenais**. Our Council strives to ensure that all aspects of our faith come alive and flourish. Emmanuel is very blessed to have such a community of capable people who lead in so many ways. On a regular basis there are people organizing and facilitating bible study, pastoral care, seniors groups, worship, maintenance of our building, activities for the youth including the Sunday School, fundraising and stewardship, human resources, finances, music and so many more things that go into making this a thriving and active place of faith and action. We are so blessed to have the spiritual guidance and leadership of Rev. Sadekie.

Everyone in the congregation has a valued role in this process and I encourage you to be bold in the Spirit. There are so many ways to be active - it might be a phone call or a message of encouragement to someone, a prayer for a friend, an active interest in the young people in our Sunday School or a helping hand at an activity. Everyone's contribution is important. The future is bright and filled with promise- we are not alone- we live in God's world. Let's discover together what God has in store for us as a community and as individuals.

Yours in faith, **Cathy Shanahan**

EASTER EVENTS

The time leading up to and including Easter offered some wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities for the Emmanuel community. On Palm Sunday, dramatic readings brought the scripture messages to life. Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, was celebrated at Westminster United Church where a light dinner was served prior to a dramatic presentation that commemorated the Last Supper.

Good Friday service took place at Bedford United Church. **Rev. Sadekie** shared worship leadership with **Charmain Splawnyk**. The choirs from Emmanuel and Bedford provided beautiful anthems. Vocal soloists and a violin solo also contributed to this meaningful time of reflection and prayer. Easter Sunday was a joyful time of praise! **Molly Morvay**, daughter of our music director, **Nick Morvay** and his wife **Sarah** was welcomed in baptism. Our sanctuary was graced with beautiful decoration including the hydrangeas that were presented by members of the congregation in memory of loved ones and beautiful new banners on the cross, made by **Mary Dagenais**.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting of Emmanuel United Church was held on Sunday, February 21, 2016 in the Banquet Hall. Following the Sunday service, a little over 50 members and friends gathered for fellowship and lunch prepared and served by **Michele and Bill McGregor**, assisted by **Pearl and Chandra Dass, Cathy Shanahan and Mary Dagenais**. During lunch we were entertained by a slide show depicting the "2015 Year in Review". We are not aware of the many and varied activities we enjoy at Emmanuel until we see them all collectively. We are a busy congregation!!

At the Annual Meeting the reports of our various committees and groups were presented in the Annual Report. The outgoing Council Chair, Mary Dagenais, recognized and thanked the members of Council, and especially the many members of our congregation who give unselfishly of their time, talents and their support of our committees and activities.

Our financial position was presented and reviewed after which the Budget for 2016 was approved. In the absence of a Treasurer, it was agreed that, if necessary, funds be dedicated to the hiring of a part time Treasurer.

The 2016 Council, with Cathy Shanahan as Chair, was elected.

TRIBUTE TO MARY DAGENAIS



At the Annual Meeting **Rev. Dr. John Palmer** rose to pay special tribute to outgoing Council Chair, Mary Dagenais. Mary served as Chair for three years, during which time she was faced with the additional responsibilities that fell on the Chair in the absence of a Minister. She also served as the Chair of the Interview Team whose efforts resulted in the selection of Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes as our new minister.

We are indebted to Mary for her leadership and guidance as we moved through an unsettling time in our history.

COVENANTING OF COUNCIL

On Sunday, March 6, 2016 a brief covenanting service took place which recognized the commitment of the congregation to the members of Council and vice versa. Those new to positions on Council were recognized.

BIBLE STUDY

In March Rev. Sadekie offered a Bible Study on the topic “Knowing the Bible”. Around 15 attended and all were unanimous in their assessment that it was a very worthwhile study. Immediately following the Sunday Service the group met in the Banquet Hall for lunch and the one hour sessions consisting of bible reading, instruction and discussion were held in the East Parlour.

The Spring Bible Study started on April 3 and will be held following the Sunday Service on April 10, 17 and 24. This is a very friendly and comfortable way to become more familiar with the bible and its meaning. Plan to join the group for one or more of the sessions.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February was black history month and **Rev. Sadekie** recognized the event on Sunday, February 28, 2016. We went on a wonderful journey into the past to commemorate Black History Month called “Redemption Song”. Through a series of music and narration we remembered the intense struggle of our Black brothers and sisters, who today have gifted us with beautiful music out of their times of trial, worship, and rebellion. Through music and narration we learned of the strength we can find in our trials and how the love of God can triumph over oppression so that one day we can in one accord ‘lift every voice and sing’.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPELS

Starting the week of January 3, 2016 **Rev. Sadekie** challenged us to read through five Books of the Bible from Matthew to Acts. A schedule was developed guiding us through a couple of chapters each week, reading about 5 minutes per day. Starting in January, the goal is to read all of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts by the end of

December, so it not a difficult assignment. Rev. Sadekie has encouraged us to set aside a time each day and to read the Bible *as a story* with the goal of getting a lesson at the end. If it helps, a journal could be kept to record thoughts after each reading.

Rev. Sadekie has installed a poster board in Ottawa Hall where thoughts or questions can be posted. She will respond by the following week.

WHAT ARE REMITS?

Remits are the way in which the church makes substantive change to organization, operations and/or policy. The 42nd General Council approved eight remits requiring votes by congregations and/or Presbyteries. The details of each of the eight questions, which, with background information and study guides, are available at GC42.ca/remits. Information on the voting process and timing (important voting deadlines) is also found here. Feel free to email any questions to c-a@londonconference.ca. A small group of Emmanuel members will prepare a plan whereby information will be provided and opportunities for feedback will be made available to the congregation.

These are critical issues and will, if approved result in major changes to the United Church of Canada.

BEN HARROP



On Saturday, April 16, 2016 Ben will be awarded the Grade 5 Ontario Home and School Association Citizenship Award, one of 8 in the province. Ben was nominated by his teachers at Hugh Beaton Public School. He was required to complete an application form highlighting his school activities such as Mind Force, Track and Field and Chess. He also wrote about training programs and community involvement such as the 57th Cubs, badges earned and skills learned, swimming lessons, soccer and being active in his faith community at Emmanuel United Church. Ben received letters of recommendation from his teacher, principal, a member of the congregation and a personal reference. Ben is very excited to have been nominated and ultimately winning the award. Ben would like to thank everyone in his "community" for helping him be the citizen he is.

CONGRATULATIONS BEN from all of your friends at Emmanuel. We are proud of you.

MORVAY BAPTISM

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016, Molly Morvay, the daughter of our Music Director Nick and his wife Sarah was baptised and welcomed into the Emmanuel community

MELOCHE BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 10, 2016 Aadon and Austen Meloche, children of Amber Couvillon and Aaron Meloche were baptised and introduced to the Emmanuel Family.

MEMORIAL

We remember Stewart Wayne Neufeld who passed away on March 22, 2016. Stu died peacefully at home on the morning of his 60th birthday. He and soulmate Cathy have been attending Emmanuel for several months.



SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

It has been a very busy time for the Alhamawi family as they settle into their new life in Canada. The three older children are attending school at Forest Glade. The parents, Fadia and Abdul, are attending English language classes. There have been lots of appointments such as dental, medical, banking etc. Volunteers have helped facilitate all of these. Since the family is without a car, even getting groceries requires assistance. We have been able to connect the family with Arabic-speaking people in many service areas and that has been a tremendous help.

In addition to the generous financial assistance offered by the sponsoring congregations, many have helped with driving, babysitting, responding to specific needs (such as a bicycle for Abdul) and much more. One of the very active volunteers, Barb Synder, recently included these comments in an update email: *The family's gratitude is profound. They are overwhelmed with the generosity and love being extended to them. But that feeling is felt by all of us, too, as we meet and travel with them.*

SYRIAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

Emmanuel has participated in the Essex Presbytery-led sponsorship of a Syrian Refugee family of five who have arrived in Windsor. Each pastoral charge in the presbytery was asked to raise \$1,000 toward the \$30,000 Presbytery target. One appeal was made at Emmanuel and this resulted in over \$2,500 being contributed to date.



The Happy Cookers served a chicken pot pie luncheon after the service on Sunday, March 6 at which a free-will offering was requested, and the Sunday School children collected and decorated bake goods which were sold at the luncheon.

WELL DONE CHILDREN!!! If you would like to contribute to this fund and have not already done so, please make your cheque out to **Emmanuel United Church** and mark **"refugee"** on the envelope.

RECEPTION GROUP SESSIONS

These sessions are for persons who desire to be Confirmed, Baptized or formally transferred, fill out the small blue card in the pew and place in the offering plate. Or, you may use the form below.

Tear off here

If you are interested in information about the Emmanuel Family and/or becoming part of our Family, please fill in and place in the offering plate.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ **email:** _____

Comment: _____

RON EWING INTERVIEWED

Veterans Voices of Canada is a non-profit national organization founded in 2006 to educate the public of Canada’s military history through the eyes of people that were there. Founder, Al Cameron, was in Windsor, at the Major F. A. Tilson Armoury, to interview local veterans. The project has conducted about 1,030 video interviews across Canada.



One of the local vets to take part was our own **Ron Ewing**, pictured at left with Alan Cameron.

The goal is to compile these interviews on DVDs for donation to families, schools, museums and libraries.

**MOTHER & Daughter
Banquet**

6pm Friday, May 6, 2016

\$15 / person
Free for children under six

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS	
<u>UNAUDITED</u> –	(to March 31, 2016)
Revenues	\$42,123
Expenses	\$39,785



PIE MAKING

One hundred and seven chicken pies were produced by the Emmanuel pie makers. A call had gone out when a ‘special’ on whole chickens was found at a local super market and our ladies rushed out to get the bargains. Home ovens went into operation and this flock of chickens went into the pot. On March 5 it all came together.

Lt. to rt. – Bob Thibert, Bruce Parks, Carol Hall, Ida Totten, John Palmer, Lynda Thibert

Lynda Thibert produced the dough and a production line began. Bob Thibert and Bill Totten worked the press making the shells. Lynda Thibert, John Palmer, Bruce Parks, Carol Hall, Ida Totten and Mary Dagenais filled and covered the shells. All were labelled, packaged and placed in the freezers, ready for sale.

It is important to note that, while it involves a bit of work, the true outcome of these activities is the fun and fellowship amongst those who participate.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday April 23, 2016

**Bring items to the church
on
Thursday/Friday, April 21/22
or
Call 519 256-0097 for pickup**

THE BEAT GOES ON

Join the Choir
for an evening of
MUSIC AND MUNCHIES
JUNE 10, 2016

Mark your calendar – details to follow

E MAIL ADDRESSES

This newsletter is distributed by email to those for whom we have email addresses. With so many of our members now having an email address this helps us to realize a sizeable saving in mailing costs. We are also continuing to provide the congregation with timely and informative updates and reminders of congregational events via email messages.

Please send your email address to the office [or put your name and email address on a piece of paper and drop it in the offering plate. It will be entered into our system and you will receive periodic information from Emmanuel.

CONTACTS

Office – 519-253-8791 email – emmanuelucwindsor@gmail.com

EMMANUEL WEB PAGE - <http://www.emmanuelunited.org/>

For the latest information on activities, events and pulpit guests consult our web page.

Minister	Rev., Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes	519 984-2608	Rev.sadekie@gmail.com
Office Secretary	Kerry Carr-Monaco	519 253-8791	emmanuelucwindsor@gmail.com
Music Director	Nick Morvay	519 253-4017	nmorvay@hotmail.com
Sunday School Coordinator	Irene Alexander	519 969-2462	tedirene@yahoo.com
Custodian	Dan Gurney	519 977-6240	pgurney5@cogeco.ca

Council Members

Chair	Cathy Shanahan	519 252-0512	cshanahan@familyrespice.org
Past Chair	Mary Dagenais	519 253-0508	mldagenais@mac.com
Vice-Chair	VACANT		
Secretary	Bill Totten	519 253-7998	wtotten@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	VACANT		

Council – Committee Chairs

Worship	Barbara Chandler	519 966-5294	chandler@jet2.net
Christian Education	Lynda Thibert	519 966-0655	lyndathibert@hotmail.com
Pastoral Care	Cathy Shanahan	519 252-0512	cshanahan@familyrespice.org
Outreach	Bill Nanson	519 256-0097	wnanson@hotmail.com
Finance	Ted Alexander	519 969-2462	tedirene@yahoo.com
Property	Lynn Byrnes	519 977-1337	ldbyrnes@mnsi.net
Ministry & Personnel	Jeanne Hays	519 253-8031	djhays@sympatico.ca
Trustees	Jeff Nanson	519 253-9367	jnanson@mousseaulaw.com
Presbytery Representatives –3	Mary Dagenais	519 253-0508	mldagenais@mac.com
	Bill Totten	519 253-7998	wtotten@sympatico.ca
	VACANT		

COMING EVENTS

April

Th/Fr	21/22	rummage sale setup		Bring donations to the church on Friday
Sa	23	RUMMAGE SALE		
Su	24	Bible Study		after Service
We	27	Council Meeting	7 pm	Choir Room

May

COFFEE HOSTS – Finance Committee
 COUNTING TEAM –Lynda Thibert, Bob Thibert, Mel Draper

Su	1	Bible Study		after the service
Fr	6	MOTHER/ DAUGHTER BANQUET	6pm	Banquet Hall
Su	8	Mother’s Day Family Breakfast	9 am	Banquet Hall
We	25	Council Meeting	7pm	Choir Room

June

COFFEE HOSTS – Trustees
 COUNTING TEAM – **help would be appreciated**

Fr	10	THE BEAT GOES ON		Music & Munchies with the Choir
Su	12	Joint Picnic		Optimist Park
Su	19	Father’s Day		