

# The South Gate Presbyterian Church Newsletter

## October 2019

Minister's Message – October 2019

### A Season of Celebration and Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is one of my favourite times of the year; not only do we have the opportunity to see and experience the abundance of the harvest and all the glorious autumn colours, but we also have the opportunity to show our thankfulness to God by sharing what we have with others and by giving of ourselves to others.

Every year at the South Gate Church, we decorate the sanctuary for Thanksgiving Sunday with a bounteous display of fresh fruits and vegetables which have been donated by members of the congregation to acknowledge God's generous provision for us through the gifts of the earth and every year we take that produce down to the Wayside House after our worship service to supplement the meals for the residents in the week ahead.

When we delivered the food to the Wayside House, the residents came outside and cheerfully helped us to unload the trunk of the car, each expressing their gratitude and wishing us a Happy Thanksgiving. This year, the cook also came out and told us that our timing was providential. He said that he was just about to start making lunch and he realized that he did not have any fresh greens to make a salad to serve the residents when we arrived with a vast array of fresh vegetables including two large heads of Romaine lettuce with which to make a salad for the men. Throughout this process, I noticed an older man sitting in a wheelchair toward the back of the driveway with his head down and a blanket draped over his head and shoulders to keep himself warm. He did not lift his head when we pulled into the driveway or join in the chatter with the other residents. Just before we left however, he raised his head, waved and wished us a Happy Thanksgiving. Uplifted, I returned the greeting and thanked God for this connection with the community. With God's help we can make a difference in the lives of others.

As brisk fall days transition into blustery, cold winter days, let us continue to be mindful of the needs of others. In the month of November, we will once again collect new socks and underwear to help meet the needs of those at Mission Services and the Eva Rothwell Centre and at the beginning of Advent (December 1, 2019) our mitten tree will be put up and ready to receive your donations of hats, mitts and scarves. Also, let us not forget our friends at the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank. Hunger is felt more acutely in the cold weather.

As we continue to celebrate God's goodness to us and give thanks, on Sunday October 27, 2019, we will celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation here on the Hamilton Mountain. Please join us for worship that morning as we give thanks to God for the mission and ministry of the South Gate Church. Following the worship service, the WMS will host the annual WMS Soup Luncheon and the FUNky Fundraisers will serve cake for dessert.

Prayers, Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Charmain

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

We welcome everyone to our Worship Service on Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We particularly welcome any visitors and ask you to please sign the guest book at the front entrance. There is a program for the children age four and up.

## **PRAYER BOX**

The "Prayer Box" is located at the back of the church on the left side table. Place your prayer request(s) in the box and your request(s) will be picked up by our prayer captains, who will then pass it down to the members of our prayer chain. These people will say your prayer every day for a week. The prayer is confidential, and you do not have to sign your name to the request if you prefer to remain anonymous. Requests can also be made to our prayer captains

## **THANK YOU NOTES**

Heartfelt thank you to our church family & friends for all their prayers, cards and visits this past summer after my hospital stay & convalescence. The many, delicious dinners prepared & delivered were so very thoughtful and greatly appreciated. Those who sat with me while Marion was at the hospital with Bruce during his emergencies were very much appreciated. We all have survived our ordeals because of all your thoughts & prayers. We are truly blessed.

Thank you  
Gerry, Bruce & Marion.

Sincere thanks to our South Gate family for the cards, calls and prayers we received during Bob's sister Bonnie's lengthy battle with cancer and following her recent passing. Bonnie greatly appreciated all the prayers and visits from Charmain. We were and still are greatly blessed.  
Bob and Karen Spence

Thank you to everyone who wished Pat and I congratulations on our 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. It was especially special as Rev. Charmain renewed our vows for us with our family present. It was very much appreciated.  
Thank you and Blessings to all.  
Pat and Deanna Robertson

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FUNKy FUNDRAISERS**

We will be celebrating the church's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> with the soup luncheon and as Anniversary cake. We will be giving away complementary Pens for the occasion.

Thank you  
January Will

## **DOORS**

**Look back and thank God.  
Look forward and trust God.  
Look around and serve God.  
Look within and find God.**

**God closes doors not man can open and God opens doors no man can close.**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL – October 2019**

We began the new church season with *Rally Day Sunday* and *Make your own Sundaes Sunday*.

Cooper Smith received his Bible now that he is 7 years old; thank you to Jennifer Fox and the generosity of the Fox family for presenting each child with a Bible when they are 7 years old.

Our Church School Mission project this year is a cloth bag stamped by the children with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo. We will be selling these bags on Anniversary Sunday, Sunday October 27, 2019 at the WMS Soup Luncheon for \$10.00 each. These cloth bags are environmentally friendly. The money raised will go toward a project that the children and youth will choose from Presbyterian World Service and Development. Please consider supporting our children and youth in this mission project.

We are also having our children and youth participate in our Sunday morning worship service by leading the congregation in the reading of the Responsive Psalm once a month.

In class, we are continuing to learn more about some of the parables; the Sowing of the Seeds, the Widow's Mite and the Prodigal Son.

Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar:

*Advent Workshop* - Sunday November 24, 2019 following the worship service

*Our Annual Christmas Pageant and Party* on Sunday December 15, 2019

## **GRIEF SHARE**

If you are seeking comfort and support after the loss of a loved one, there is a meeting of Grief Share every Monday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. downstairs in the Buchanan Room.

All are welcome.

Teresa Robson

## **BACK PACKS**

Thanks to the generous support and donations of school supplies, the church filled 30 backpacks with school supplies to help students in need with a good start to the new school year. The backpacks were distributed to the Eva Rothwell Center and the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank. We would like to thank the congregation for their help with the project.

Mary Pomfret

## **SOMEONE SPECIAL**

Author – Louise C. Wilson

How lucky I am  
That our paths have met,  
And out of this wide world  
You choose me for your friend.

Thank you for being there,  
On the rainy days,  
And in the sunshine  
For loving and accepting me,  
Just as I am,  
Unconditionally.

You bring joy into my life.  
That lights up the day,  
Like sun on a spring morning,  
Thank you for being my friend.