

# Emmanuel Newsletter

February 2012

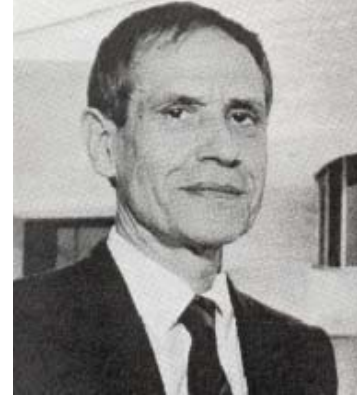
Rev. Stan Mackay  
United Church Moderator



N.W.T.'s first Dene Supreme Court  
Judge Shannon Smallwood



Architect Douglas Cardinal



MICHAEL GREYEYES  
Associate Professor:  
Department of Theatre, York University



National Chief Shawn Atleo



Elijah Harper, MP



Graham Greene, actor



Air Creebec



Success Stories

See Guest Editorial by Norman Williams and Phyllis MacRae

## Guest Editorial : RIGHT RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

**"The United Church of Canada is committed to working to create a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples that start in confession for past wrongs and, it is the church's hope, ends in the shared joy of walking together in a healed and renewed creation."**

***The United Church of Canada Brief to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (Nov. 1993)***

In the fall of 2011 some members of our congregation began a series of learning activities to explore questions about our relations with Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, and in our own community. These discussions will continue as part of Thank Goodness It's Tuesday (TGIT) in late March and early April.

Some have asked why we should be asking these questions now. Are we not far away in time from the worst evils imposed upon the Indian, Inuit and Métis Peoples in historical times? Haven't the residential schools been closed for generations? Didn't the residential school system provide a good education and training for some Indian, Inuit and Métis children? Didn't the United Church of Canada and the Prime Minister issue strong and meaningful apologies on behalf of Canadians? What more is there to talk about now? Shouldn't we expect people to "move on" and get past these painful events?

As members of the Christian Church in Canada, we are well aware that relations between the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and the churches in Canada have a difficult and painful history. We cannot ignore the role our own United Church played as an institution and as individuals in this history of "civilizing the savages" and converting them to Christianity. Some have even suggested that the "Residential School experience" should more accurately be referred to as "the Christian School experience".

As we know, Canada has embarked on a five-year journey of seeking "Truth and Reconciliation" by means of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that has begun national, regional and local meetings across the country. In 1998 the United Church of Canada made a formal apology to the Aboriginal Peoples of

Canada for its part in the residential school system. It continues to work to understand our past and present and to work towards a healing and reconciling relationship with Aboriginal Peoples in the future. We do not want to live with guilt which is a hopeless and unproductive response. Rather we want to ask questions, deepen our understanding of Aboriginal-Canadian relations and walk together with Aboriginal Peoples on a path of healing and respect.

Some survivors have told us that, given the very deep hurt of the residential school experience and its continuing impact on communities and families today, it is unreasonable to ask Aboriginal Peoples to "move beyond" this experience until the healing is complete. And it is far from complete in 2012.

The United Church of Canada is actively working to develop right relations through a number of initiatives. One is the *Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools*.

(<http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/relationships>). The Church also has also formed a national *Living Into Right Relations Task Group* and *Right Relations Home Groups* that will meet on a continuing basis. The Ottawa Presbytery has formed such a group to find ways to reconcile in this community.

At the recent national event of the TRC in Halifax in October 2011, the United Church of Canada offered an "expression of reconciliation" – "a broken chalice, a powerful symbol of the brokenness of our relationships, while embodying the hope of newness of life." (*Residential Schools Update*, January 2012, United Church of Canada)

The national Church is undertaking discussions to build a common understanding of the term "reconciliation." The TRC chair, Justice Murray Sinclair, has made this request of all the parties to the *Residential Schools Settlement Agreement* signed in May 2006.

**We hope that our own discussions and explorations of these questions and learning from Aboriginal Peoples will help Emmanuel contribute to this important larger initiative.**

With respect for *All Our Relations*,

Phyllis MacRae     Norman Williams

## From our Minister's Desk



### **This Lent, our worship theme invites us into the practice of hospitality.**

What is your experience of hospitality? What was it like to be welcomed into a relationship, a circle of friends or family, a church? How did that happen? What did it mean to you?

I still hear stories of the wonderfully hospitable welcome that first-timers received at Emmanuel because of Katherine English, or Ida and Jim Mains. That first conversation and connection means so much to a newcomer. And all of us, regardless of age, can share in that practice wherever we are. The Keeping in Touch Committee does important work in opening doors and connecting those who walk through our doors for the first time. But this is a ministry that needs all of us to participate.

Here are some practical hospitable activities that adults and youth can do or parents can do with children. Probably you already do many of these things! Maybe there's something here you never thought of doing.

- When you make soup or cookies, double the recipe and give some away to a neighbour, or be radical and share them with someone you don't know that well in your church family -
- Bring the bus driver a muffin or coffee -
- Compliment a stranger - Give a ride to a neighbour -
- Hold the door for the person behind you -
- Write a note of appreciation to the mail carrier, a teacher at school, or someone at church -
- Give up your place in the grocery line to someone with one item

- Pass on a book that really touched you -
- Recycle your magazines to places that might use them -
- Put a chocolate (wrapped) or a note of appreciation under a pillow -
- When visiting in the hospital, spend a few minutes with someone who has no visitors -
- When you notice a request for help, discuss as a family what you might do -
- Give blood, Sign an organ donation card, take a pet to a nursing home, fix a bike and pass it on, clean up a park...

We do these things, at least in part, because we are Christians, because Jesus told his followers to love your neighbour as you love yourself.

Our ministry calls us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Our neighbourhood includes New Orleans, El Salvador, Zambia and anywhere else our pilgrimages take us. Our mission tells us that building and helping matters next door and in far away places.

This Lent, let us spend some time in reflection and action on the practice of hospitality.



Shalom, Peter  
Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue in  
Cardenas Cuba

***“If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.”***

That is the motto of the Centre, an independent non-government organization based on Christian and ecumenical principles. Working with the poor, the Centre works to provide churches and society with educational and investigative programs on



social action and reflection. Ross White, Andrew Collins, Bill Smith and I stayed there for a week in 1999 with a group of Emmanuel youth on the first Emmanuel pilgrimage–service-learning trip.

More than a decade later what do we remember from that experience? Heather Perkins was a teenager then and I asked her about her memories when we were on the ski weekend at Mont Gabriel. Heather remembers the warm water, the amazing mangoes, music, group dynamics and awful food. She remembers not being able to buy what we wanted in the stores and spreading manure in a field.

What about Cuba today? I spent 10 days at the Centre in November and repeated many of the same activities but this time I was with a group from the United Church of Canada who were being trained as a regional support system for United Church Global Partnerships. As we worked through principles of partnership, theology and schedules

we reflected with our hosts and global partners from Tanzania and Zambia. We delivered meals on wheels to local residents. We were met with smiles and stories of hope. We spent a day on a farm seeing amazing organic gardens and biogas plants. We met with professors at Matanzas Theological Seminary and listened to a lecture on the theology of the absurd – how else do we explain such poverty and such wealth? We worshipped with the local Presbyterian congregation. We listened to the personal experiences of those struggling to survive and working with their community to build strong communities. We were thanked for walking with our partners.

The field that we worked in 12 years ago is now a farm that feeds much of Cardenas. The dining room in the Centre now serves wonderful fresh fruit and vegetables each day. The Centre has won government awards and contracts for their biogas plant designs. The United Church hopes to share this technology with other global partners.

But ... the country is poorer. Not everyone has the basic food they need. The political tensions in the United States have an

impact on everyday life for Cubans. Churches are stronger and relationships with partners are crucial. Partners can provide moral support, funding and access to the world.

So the Centre continues their work in community development, worship, teaching and serving. If they are not part of the solution they are part of the problem. The Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue is a vital resource for Cubans in the long-term struggle for sustainable development and for people outside Cuba who want to learn about the country's unique social project. And at Emmanuel we have continued to use pilgrimages as a central form of faith formation. It continues to help us to understand that if we are not part of the solution we

are part of the problem.

*Christine*

## Church Photo Directory

Emmanuel is creating a new photo directory. The dates for photographs will be April 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23, 24 and 25. Lynn Gullins is the overall coordinator, assisted by Shirley Monsebraaten and members of the Keeping in Touch Committee. Photos will be taken by IPC Canada, the company that produced our previous directory in 2007. This year, we are using an online system provided by IPC to reserve sitting times for the photos. It is easy to use, you can print off your sitting information for your records, and it will send you an immediate email confirmation and another email reminder, three days before the appointment date. Starting February 26, access will be provided via a link on the Emmanuel Home page. Anyone without internet access can sign up after church in the CD Hall.

If you know that you will be away for the April dates, please contact Joyce White, 613-745-8759. We hope to have a directory that includes all the faces of our congregation. Candid shots will also be included of groups and activities.

We need volunteers to man the reception desk during the photo sessions. Please contact Shirley Monsebraaten if you can help.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Q Not everyone in our family is a member of the church. Can we still get a family portrait done? A Yes, several poses of the entire family as well as poses of the individuals who wish to appear in the book will be taken.

Q Is there a sitting fee? Do we have to purchase any portraits?

A There is no sitting fee and no obligation to purchase. Simply being photographed will entitle your family to a free copy of the directory.

Q. What poses are taken?

A A variety of poses will be taken, such as: for families with children there will be two poses of the complete family, one pose of the husband and wife, and one pose of the children; for couples, there will be one head and shoulder pose, one  $\frac{3}{4}$  pose and one each of the husband and wife; for singles,

there will be one head and shoulder pose and one  $\frac{3}{4}$  pose.

Q I'm not buying any portraits so I don't want to be photographed.

A You are not obligated to make any purchase. Being photographed entitles you to inclusion in the book and you'll receive a free copy of it.

Q I want to use my own picture rather than be photographed. Can this be done?

A Yes, there is a \$12.50 fee + applicable taxes for this service and there are restrictions on the size and type of picture you may submit.

Q How long does the appointment take?

A Approximately 30-45 minutes of photography and viewing of your portraits (one appointment).

Q How much do the portraits cost?

A Approximately 30% less than studio prices for the same quality work.

Q What should I wear?

A Long sleeves and a rich, colour coordinated wardrobe is recommended. Also, please dress for a full length portrait.

### The Arms Trade

Global military expenditure in 2010 reached \$1,630 billion — a 50% increase since 2001. This amount is equivalent to \$233 per person in the world. The top 10 military spenders are the United States (\$698 billion), China (\$119 billion), Britain \$59.6 billion), France (\$59.3 billion), Russia \$58.7 billion), Japan (\$54.5 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$45.2 billion), Germany \$45.11 billion), India (\$41.3 billion), and Italy (\$37.0 billion). The U.S. arms firms in 2010 racked up 62% of total military Sales.

The United States is by far the world's largest military spender, accounting for 43% of such expenditure on a global basis. China is a distant second (7.3%), followed by Britain (3.7%), and France and Russia (tied at 3.6%).  
*SOURCES: SIM Military Expenditure Database, SIPRI Yearbook, Centre for international Policy, truth-out.org, New Internationalist*

## Watch on the Mer Bleue



A winter prospect -- meeting you  
each Sunday afternoon,  
here where the frozen lagg  
opens on the bog. I ski out  
from Borthwick Ridge, and you  
from Carlsbad where I see  
a steeple on the bleak horizon;  
through tall cattails first,  
then scattered tamarack,

frosted black spruce candles  
on the one side, hibernating  
maples, naked and deciduous  
(like us) along the other.

I fall in step with fresh-laid tracks  
of a pair of white-tailed deer --  
one big buck, from the width  
of trace between his hoofprints,  
and a smaller doe or yearling.

I enter their covert domain,  
forgetting, not regretting that  
this week you have not appeared.

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## Epiphany

Light all Divine,

Transforming human nature,

Shine upon us

Who walk in darkened ways.

Make your way clear,

Where we have walked in error,

Shine on our pathway

And to us draw near.

Light all Divine,

Shine forth in all your brilliance,

Show to us truth,

The fact that all are loved.

And may this truth

With its life-giving message,

Brighten our way,

As did the star above.

Light all Divine,

Shine forth in all your radiance,

Come dwell in us,

And make our hearts your home.

Then from within,

Our face will shine like Jesus,

Love un-restrained,

For strangers and for kin.

Ron Dicks

## Emmanuel's 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary



Founding Member Mabel Burton

January 29, 2011 saw Emmanuel Congregation celebrate 53 years of ministry. Our theme that we chose to lift up in gratitude was "A Celebration of Music." Many testimonies were given speaking about the various musical groups and choirs as well as some story-telling from the past. Once again we were treated to the music of the young folk led by Jeremy. It all culminated with a bang-up masterpiece played by Theresa and Faye, the bells led by Ann and the many voices of the choir led by Lee. It could have been played at the NAC!! They were that good. Thank you everyone for such a wonderful memory to keep in our anniversaries memory box.

(Patty Kavcic)



Founding Member Audrey and Earl Mather

## Founding member Hilde Reynolds



Emmanubells



Emmanubells



Choir



Thanks to Ken Gullins and Anna Wong for the pictures.

# “Emmanuel Blooms”

Emmanuel's Spring Fashion Show In  
Support Of The Revitalization Fund

A Sunday Afternoon Of Spring Fashions  
And Tea



Featuring Spring Fashions From  
*Melanie Lyne*

Emmanuel United  
Church  
691 Smyth Road  
(613) 733-0437

April 15, 2012  
Doors Open At  
1:30 PM

Ticket Price: \$20.00  
Limited To 150  
On Sale February 27th

## UPCOMING SERVICES

February 12 10:00 am Worship Service

February 19 10:00 am Worship Service, Foodbank Sunday, Newcomer's lunch

**February 22 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm**

February 26 10:00 am Worship service, 1st Sunday in Lent Communion

February 29 Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

## PEOPLE NEWS

Evelyn Hewitt, deceased, January 30, 2012

### Remembering Evelyn Hewitt

Thursday, Feb 2, 2012, we said good bye to Evelyn Hewitt, a long-time member of our old Eastbrook Congregation. Bev Laplante spoke very movingly of Evelyn's contributions to the life of that church over many years, most notably keeping the office going for clergy as well as the church family. As was noted by Bev and Evelyn's daughter, Maureen, Evelyn was a very private person whose faith remained strong and close to her heart even when life's trials were overwhelming. One might say she celebrated life by being genuinely present to those around her. As the song says, "great was your faithfulness," Evelyn.

(Patty Kavcic)

### News from Verona Milner:

A telephone call from Verona brought news that her move West to Calgary was not all good, even though it might have been a blessing she was there. Verona suffered a small stroke and was hospitalized for a short stay. Knowing her determination to jump any hurdles in her way, I can imagine she will be as good as new before too long with the loving care of her family members who are close. She likes her new home, but has discovered there are many more couples than there are singles who naturally gravitate toward other couples. I bet that will soon change as those folk come to realize they have a very interesting woman in their midst. You can write to her. Address available from the office.

(Patty Kavcic)

#### **Emmanuel Newsletter**

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