



# OLive     The Newsletter of Gordon United Church

Theme: Friends and Fellowship

Vol. 39 Issue 3

You  
Belong!



Whether you are a member or not, you belong to Gordon United Church. Your gifts are appreciated and your participation is welcome. The only difference between members and adherents is that there are positions of spiritual leadership that are only open to those who have made a formal commitment to Gordon United, and there are a couple of issues (such as calling a new minister) on which only members are allowed to vote. Otherwise, the measure of belonging is simply presence and participation. **If you wish to be part of Gordon United, you are!**

If you are active in any aspect of congregational life, and especially if you are active in the worshipping community, you belong. (Of course, if you are unable to attend due to ill health, frailty, work commitments, etc, but still wish to stay connected, you, too, belong!)

This being said, we encourage the act of commitment involved in becoming a member. (We might compare it to the difference between living together and marrying.) Those who wish to officially become members can do so in a number of ways:

- 1) If you are already a member of a United Church, you simply contact your previous church and ask them to transfer your membership here.
- 2) If you are a member of a church of another denomination, the same applies.
- 3) If you have been active in another church but don't know where your membership lies, we will simply adapt the process.
- 4) If you are a new Christian you will be asked to make an Adult Affirmation of Faith (Confirmation), and if you have not been baptized, to participate in the sacrament of Baptism.

In all cases except the first, and especially if you are a new Christian, you will be asked to take some time to get to know the beliefs and practices of the United Church of Canada. This is normally done through Confirmation classes. All new members are asked to participate in a brief act of worship during regular Sunday services to mark their commitment.

If you have any questions, or are interested in becoming a member, please call or email Rev. Heidi. We hope to have a recognition of Confirmation and Transfer of Membership in worship on the first Sunday in November.

*"Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or other animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people."*

### God's Presence for a Child:

When my children were young, we never missed church and our church's active Sunday School. You often wonder what impact an event, experience or activity is having upon your children. I found out how my daughter Mary was being impacted once day when she showed me a sliver in her hand. Upon my asking her about it, she said, "Dad, it's like God. You know the sliver is there, but you can't see it." As the expression goes: out of the mouths of babes.

Ken McDougall

*"True friends never let you down...  
at least, not without rope!"*

## HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

When I wandered into Gordon United Church nearly four years ago, it was to hear the Christmas Cantata where I hoped to be relatively anonymous among the many guests and visitors. I liked what I heard and I liked the general air of friendliness in the church. So, I returned in January.

Again, I hoped to be anonymous. I sat in my pew and studiously perused the bulletin. Although most of you know me as an outgoing, gregarious person, I do find it hard going into unknown territory for the first time. However, I didn't factor Tish Portelance into my thinking. She spied me out as a newcomer, sat down beside me and proceeded to make me feel welcome. She chatted about the various church groups available, and then made sure that she accompanied me to the Coffee Time, where she introduced me to all and sundry. Everywhere, I was made to feel that I'd found a welcoming church home.

Whenever I see a new face, I notice that there are always several people who make it a point to go over and welcome them, just as Tish did with me. (You may wonder why I don't do the welcoming – being still relatively new to the church, I fear warmly welcoming as a stranger some long-time member that I don't recognize!)

I think that's the strong cornerstone of our Gordon United fellowship – the ability to welcome strangers and make them feel like family.

- Pat Wilson



## Friends

*One dictionary's definition of friend is someone who is on your side. An example of a friend is an ally. Friend can also be defined as a person that you are fond of, with whom you talk or spend time. An example of a friend is the person you have known a long time and trust.*

When I hear friend, I immediately picture two buddies who have stood by me since our children were in elementary school. Although the kids seldom see each other anymore, my friends and I try to meet at least once a month to catch up with the family news, to chat and mostly to laugh. We support each other in good times and bad. Good friends, indeed.

Mary Ellen Hodgetts

*Friendship can weather most things and thrive in thin soil – but it needs a little mulch of letters and phone calls and small silly presents every so often – just to save it from drying out completely.*

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Each tick of the clock to me means a lot,  
I value my time more each day.  
Youth gives no thought to the tick of the clock  
And the speed with which time slips away.

Am I wrong when I say, "time goes much  
faster",  
Than it did when I was in school?  
No, the clock doesn't go in faster  
It's yourself you're trying to fool.

I've some goals that I haven't quite reached yet  
And I've come to the time in life's span,  
That I know I must seize every moment  
If I'm going to meet my master plan.

But I temper my thoughts, what a burden,  
In life's book is this what I've learned?  
Best to take life in steps as it's served you  
And be at ease when the last page is turned.  
-Lew Duddridge

*Whether people hold onto their old friends or grow apart seems to come down to dedication and communication. In Ledbetter's longitudinal study of best friends, the number of months that friends reported being close in 1983 predicted whether they were still close in 2002, suggesting that the more you've invested in a friendship already, the more likely you are to keep it going. Other research has found that people need to feel like they are getting as much out of the friendship as they are putting in, and that that equity can predict a*



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## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The end of the month Silent Auctions have proved to be a busy and successful time with over \$1,240 raised to date. This is designated to assist in paying for the \$15,000 roof repair. There will be another Silent Auction on Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for your donations and enthusiastic bidding.

Saturday afternoon October 13<sup>th</sup> the Pacific Edge Chorus will be putting on a concert with the proceeds to assist in raising funds towards the roof repair. Mark it on your calendars. This very talented and Internationally known Chorus have practiced here at Gordon United for over 30 years. Two years ago they donated the proceeds from a concert to assist in the CE Hall flooring project. We truly appreciate their generosity and talents

The 2018 Fall Dinner is coming up on Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>. One thing that the Congregation at Gordon United enjoy doing is socializing and eating. We will be seeking help at making this another successful event and one that can be looked forward to each year. (submitted by Karen Hicks)



## TIME AND FRIENDSHIP

Do you think we will be this close... In 20...30... Or 40 years from now?  
 What could happen in that time... a death, a birth, a marriage, a divorce, or all of the above?  
 We will never know the future.  
 Yet sometimes it would be nice to sneak a peak, at numerous simple things.  
 The choices we make today will alter (for better or worse) our future.  
 Will we succeed or will we fail?  
 Will we give into temptation or show our strength?

Only God knows what lies written on our hearts.

Will we be little old ladies gossiping together at a coffee shop 60 years from now or will we even recognize one or another?

Maybe, throughout our future years, we will become closer almost sisters

Although, we may lose touch every now and then,

After all life does happen,

We will still have many memories, and can start again like we never missed a day.

Nor can it be promised that we will raise our kids together,

But they will know about our friendship, and those unforgettable times.

Do you think we will be as close as we are today, many years from now....

No, even closer.

-Melissa A. Lynn

### A Great Fall Recipe from Mary Ellen Hodgetts

We have an over-abundance of green peppers in our garden this year. I have been looking for new recipes to augment the ones I usually add green peppers to and found the following. We had it for supper last night and it was delicious.

#### Italian Sausage, Peppers, and Onions

- 6 (4 ounce) links sweet Italian sausage
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow onion, sliced
- 1/2 red onion, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large red bell pepper, sliced
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 cup white wine

#### Directions

Place the sausage in a large skillet over medium heat, and brown on all sides. Remove from skillet, and slice.

Melt butter in the skillet. Stir in the yellow onion, red onion, and garlic, and cook 2 to 3 minutes. Mix in red bell pepper and green bell pepper. Season with basil, and oregano. Stir in white wine. Continue to cook and stir until peppers and onions are tender.

Return sausage slices to skillet with the vegetables. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 15 minutes, or until sausage is heated through.



## PROPERTY AND FINANCE REPORT

It's been one long hot summer!!! This hasn't stopped the Gardening Crew from keeping up with the weeding, patching up the lawn after the raccoons digging for grubs as well as the controlled watering. You may not see it – but the Bill Blazenko's rose is in full bloom at the end side of the church.

It has been a busy place at the church with Soare Contracting completing the \$15,000.00 repair to the CE Hall roof. Gorge Electric installed the 3 fans in the Sanctuary and Sundays have been a cooler worship time because of them.

The Refrigerator in the CE Hall quit and a new replacement “freezerless” refrigerator has been ordered. Many thanks to the UCW and Get Acquainted Group for covering this cost of \$895.00.

Painting jobs have been done as well. Ray Green refreshed the signage on our front wooden sign and Floyd Richards repainted some of the Playground equipment.

Many people attended the Coffee and Conversation time on August 9<sup>th</sup> to say “Thank you” to Hazel for her time as our Office Administrator and enjoyed the selection of pies and ice cream. We look forward to welcoming Mary Lou Bannister to the position and working closely with her.

A section of the sidewalk has been taped off while the repair of the sprinkler system is carried out. A new First Aid Kit was purchased by Get Acquainted Group. This summer there were a number of times that the need arose for the kit.

As we head into the last Quarter of the year and on behalf of the Team, I would like to thank everyone for your support in finances and time to keep our church and property in good condition. We also invite you to consider joining our Team in some capacity in 2019 when Nominations is taking place. Thank you.

Submitted by Judy Muir.



*Animal Reflections from Jean Roberts:*

*"When I look into the eyes of an animal, I do not see an animal.  
I see a living being. I see a friend. I feel a soul." A.D.*

*Williams*

*"He who feed a hungry animal, feeds his own soul." Charlie  
Chaplin*

## ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



One of the things I enjoy most in ministry is exploring thoughts and feelings about Christian life with people in a small-group setting. This is what we do on Monday afternoons (or at another time, if it works better for you). We have done studies of particular books of the Bible, of magazine articles, of books on theology, other faiths, how to read the Bible, and video studies that took us through important theological ideas. Here are some of the suggestions for this Fall:

a) **“The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why”** by Phyllis Tickle – ab \$17. Dr Tickle proposes that roughly every 500 years Christianity goes through a major upheaval that profoundly changes what it looks like in the world (for example, the Protestant Reformation and Counter Reformation). She believes we are living through a similar time.

b) **“Revelation for Progressive Christians”** by Donald Schmidt – ab. \$15. Don’t let literalists, fundamentalists and apocalyptic cults own this fascinating book! Learn to read the Book of Revelation as a book of hope for the present and excitement about the future!

c) a particular **book of the Bible** (group’s choice); free! It’s good to go really in depth into one book to better understand the bits and pieces we hear on Sundays.

d) taking a look at **coming Sunday readings together**; free! A chance to look ahead at what your minister will be preaching on and the children will be studying. A great way to prepare for Sunday and a really good resource for your minister, too!

e) **“Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don’t Belong To”** by Lillian Daniel – ab.\$20. Do you feel like you have to defend Christianity when people find out you go to church? Here a book for you! It’s written rather tongue in cheek and is an easy read.

f) **“When You Come Unglued...Stick Close to God”** by Patricia Wilson – ab.\$5. A daily devotional guide written by our own Pat W with weekly group reflections.

g) **"Weird Church: Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"** by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon (guest speaker coming to Victoria in late October)– ab.\$27. What churches look like is changing. You can find church in coffee shops, shopping malls, outdoors in the woods or the fields; you can find people going to church one place and being part of a dedicated Christian community in another. Find out what's happening out there and if we can be a part of it!

Rev. Heidi

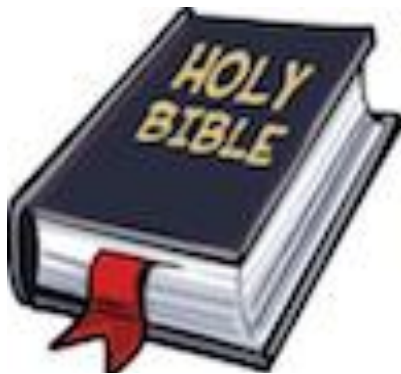
### Fellowship

*One dictionary's definition of fellowship is a friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests. An example: "they valued fun and good fellowship as the cement of the community". Another dictionary says that Fellowship is an old-fashioned word: a friendly feeling that exists between people who have a shared interest or are doing something as a group:*

The most obvious group I feel fellowship is our church family at Gordon United. We are 'cemented together as a community'; and 'have shared interests, doing something as a group'.

My other Fellowship group is my large family, on my mother's side. We gathered in community in July, with cousins from Victoria, up-Island, Vancouver, Central BC, Washington State, New Zealand and Australia – over 70 relatives, ranging from Uncle Jim at 95 to baby Theo at five weeks, all descendants of the Godfrey brothers of Scotland. Great fun!

- Mary Ellen Hodgetts



### DO YOU KNOW WHAT "BIBLE" STANDS FOR?

B - Basic  
I - Instructions  
B - Before  
L - Leaving  
E – Earth

### A Happy Home Recipe:

4 cups of love  
2 cups of loyalty  
3 cups of forgiveness  
1 cup of friendship  
5 spoons of hope

4 quarts of faith  
1 barrel of laughter  
Bake with sunshine and serve  
generously. - Josie Downs





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2 spoons of tenderness

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"This poem is about how I rediscovered my faith after my transition. As a transwoman, I always struggled to accept myself as I never thought God accepted me. But in attending Gordon United, the sense of fellowship here helped me to realize that God made me the way I am with intent, and that he loves me for who I am, and wants me to embrace that full heartedly. This is written as a 'thank you' to all of you for welcoming my husband and I. We will always be grateful for this." -Addison Lee

Welcomed here with open arms  
Completely full my soul is filled  
Our relationships renewed again  
Surrounded, I am stilled.

With every breath I feel your grace  
Christ's light around us all  
A fellowship so strong and true  
We pray to you, hear our call.

I denied my truth for far too long  
Finally thriving as my true self  
I thank you for your acceptance  
And the strength to love myself.

Always thinking I was shameful  
For something I could not control  
Body and mind never coincide  
But with intent you placed my Soul.

I know that now beyond all else  
You were with me along the way  
Each hurdle you threw before me with care  
To strengthen and grow my Soul each day.

Without this community I'd be blind  
To all the wonders you gave my life  
So bless these people in this church  
That cured my internal strife.

Thank you you for their grace and kindness  
Thank you for their happy smiles  
Thank you for their hearts of gold  
As they go for the extra miles.

Filled with joy and filled with hope  
A fellowship so strong and true  
For each and every one of them  
I will always thank you.



**THOUGHTS TO PONDER** – submitted by Jean Robertson

"At the end of hardship comes happiness."  
Korean Proverb

"The earth has music for those who listen."  
George Santayana

"Remember to look up at the stars  
and not down at your feet." Stephen Hawking



# Kids Fun Page



## Autumn Word Search



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

autumn  
fall  
season  
leaves  
brown  
yellow  
red  
rake

**Here's how to save some of the beautiful fall leaves. You can iron fresh leaves to preserve their color.** This method works best on leaves that are not too dry. although you should pat them dry with paper towels if the surface is wet. Place one leaf between two sheets of wax paper, and put a towel on top of the wax paper. Heat a clothes iron, then move the iron over the towel while pressing for 2-5 minutes or until that side feels dry. Flip over the stack of wax paper, put the towel over it again, and repeat.

- **Warning:** children should have an adult iron the leaves for them, as the iron can get dangerously hot.
- Make sure the clothes iron is *not* set to produce steam.
- Once the leaf is ironed, cut a circle of wax paper out around it and peel off each layer of wax paper. This will leave wax on the leaf to preserve its color.

### WHY WORRY?

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well,

Then there's nothing to worry about.

But if you are sick,

There are two things to worry about:

Either you get well or you will die.

If you get well,

There's nothing to worry about.

If you die,

Then there are two things to worry about:

Either you will go up or you will go down.

If you go up,

There's nothing to worry about.

But if you go down,

You will be so busy shaking hands with old friends that you won't have time to worry.

## *The Last Laugh...*



Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down. -*Oprah Winfrey*



**Just remember  
if we get caught,  
you're deaf and  
I don't speak  
English.**

*Editor's Note:*

*Sometimes, life gets in the way while you're making other plans. So it was with the publication of this quarter's edition of the OLive. My apologies for those who contributed to the newsletter on time and then wondered what had happened. This is a fairly short edition since there weren't a lot of contributions from others. I'm hoping that I can persuade more of you to send in your poems, stories, recipes, jokes, sayings, and all and anything that you think others might like to see. It's only when we have many voices that we have a true newsletter for the church. Pat Wilson*

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred  
                    minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our  
                aims are one,  
Our comforts, and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other  
flows  
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined  
in heart,  
And hope to meet again.



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## We are not alone - we live in God's world.

Gordon United is a friendly, accepting congregation blessed with members diverse in background. We meet for Sunday services beginning with a time of singing at 10:15 with the worship service at 10:30 AM, and for fellowship and coffee immediately afterward.

"We want to deepen our connection with our God, our neighbour and ourselves, expanding our capacity to love as taught and embodied by Jesus."

Gordon United Church, 935 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Y2

