

# Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

Visit our website at [www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com](http://www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com)



*"The little church with a big heart"*

**Stone United Church**  
5370 Fourth Line  
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

## November 2019

**Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler**

[hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com)

519-265-7385

**Secretary: Sharyn Southworth**

[rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com](mailto:rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com)

519-856-4160



*"Live, Love, Laugh"*

**Rockwood United Church**  
119 Harris St.  
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

Join us for...



Find us on Facebook. Friend "Rockwood Stone" and like our page "Rockwood-Stone United Churches" for updates and reminders about upcoming events.

**Worship on Sundays at Stone, at 9:45 am and at Rockwood, at 11:15 am September to June.**

Check our website for special services.

**Eramosa Ensemble Practices** are held on **Tuesdays** at **Stone** at **7 pm**, year-round.

**Choir Practices** are held on **Thursdays**, at **Rockwood**, at **7 pm** and at **Stone**, at **8 pm**, September through June.

If you would like to sing in a choir or play in the ensemble contact our choir directors **Barb Eley**

[jeanbarbara2880@aol.com](mailto:jeanbarbara2880@aol.com) at **Rockwood** or **Liz Guthrie** [lizguthrie@xplornet.com](mailto:lizguthrie@xplornet.com) at **Stone**.

For the **Stone Bell Choir** practice times, contact **Liz Guthrie** [lizguthrie@xplornet.com](mailto:lizguthrie@xplornet.com).

If you are interested in the **Rockwood Chime Choir**, contact **Christine Wenger** [daelincw@gmail.com](mailto:daelincw@gmail.com)



**Sunday November 17**

### **Silent Auction**

from **10:30 am to 1 pm**, at **Rockwood United**

The Outreach Committee welcomes members of the community to this fun event. A light lunch will be provided to sustain folk as they bid for treasures and maybe complete their Christmas shopping from our three stalls: **"Deck the Halls"** with all things Christmas including fresh outdoor festive arrangements; **"Company's Coming"** which will offer much of what you may need to entertain guests; and **"Comfort and Joy"** with items designed to gladden the hearts of all.

All funds raised will help us to support the EWCS food bank; the Rural Women's Support Program and the Anishnabeg Outreach.

**Sunday, November 24**

### **Cluster Gathering**

from **2 to 4 pm**, at **Rockwood United**

Join members of our neighbour churches for food, fellowship, fun, a time of worship and to **Imagine** future gatherings. Participants will be invited to share highlights from the life and work of their church.



**Sunday, November 24**

begin the Christmas season with

### **An Evening of Christmas Carols**

at **7 pm**, at **Rockwood United**

with our own Eramosa Ensemble.



November 14 and every other Thursday through June



**For Women:** come to **Tea and Talk**

from 10 am to 12 noon,  
in the sanctuary at **Rockwood United!**

Join us for tea (or coffee), a chat,  
friendship and goodies!



**Wednesday, November 20,**  
**Genesis Book Club**

at 7:30 pm, at **Stone United** to discuss  
Once Upon a Lost Girl, by D.L. Castle.

Join us for a thoughtful,  
thought-provoking conversation...  
and yummy treats.



November 21 and every other Thursday through June,

**For Men:** you are invited to

**Coffee Connection!**

from 10 am to 12 noon,  
in the sanctuary at **Rockwood United!**



Join in the laughter and lively conversation while you  
enjoy sweets and coffee.

**Saturdays, November 30 and**  
the last Saturday of the month from January to May

**Country Breakfast**

at **Rockwood United**, from 8 to 11 am

Bring your family, friends and neighbours  
for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation.

If anyone could **help serve, cook, clear tables**  
**or clean the kitchen afterwards,**

please contact Marcia Haworth or Sherol Steinberg.



We will begin the Season of Advent with

**Worship** and **Communion**

on Sunday, December 1  
at 9:45 am at **Stone United** and  
at 11:15 am at **Rockwood United.**



**Friday, December 6** join us for  
**Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun**

beginning at 6 pm, at **Rockwood United.**

Bring potluck to share and join us  
for a Stuart McLean Christmas story,  
activities, conversation,  
crafts, and a casual time of worship.

Contact Heather at [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com)  
or 519-265-7385 by the Wednesday before,  
so we know how many places to set for supper.



**Wear Your Festive Apparel**  
**for Anishnabeg Outreach and**  
**the EWCS Food Bank**

During the Advent Season, you are invited to “don your  
festive apparel”, have some Christmas fun and help  
those in need in our community. Each Sunday in  
Advent, you are invited as you are able to contribute  
needed items for **Anishnabeg Outreach** and **East**  
**Wellington Community Services.** Bring socks or  
feminine hygiene products for Anishnabeg Outreach or  
toilet paper, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent,  
honey or jam for East Wellington.



To brighten the sanctuary ...  
on **December 1**, wear something **red.**

On **December 8** wear **green.**

On **December 15** wear a **festive hat.**

On **December 22** wear **all of the above.**

Adornments like festive belts, dangly earrings etc.  
are encouraged – be creative -- home made  
all the better!

**Thursday, December 12**

come to **Rockmosa**,  
74 Christie St., Rockwood  
between 5 and 7 pm for a



**Chili and Hot Dog Supper**

hosted by the Stone Choir  
before **Rockwood's Parade of Lights.**

Cake and beverages, too.

Purchase items separately or as a meal.

**Friday, December 13** at noon

ladies are invited to

**Stone United U.C.W.'s**  
**Christmas Potluck.**

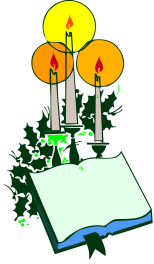
Bring your favourite salad, main course  
or dessert to share.

**Spiritual Saturdays**

Join us on **January 25**

at **Stone United** from 1 to 3:30 pm  
to engaging a time of spiritual practices.

In January, we will be praying scripture. This  
spiritual practice will be shared and there will be time to  
pray and share. For more information or to suggest a  
practice for the next gathering, contact Lisa Leffler  
[lleffler@live.ca](mailto:lleffler@live.ca).



Tuesday, December 24

## Christmas Eve

at **Rockwood United**  
join us for the worship  
that fits your evening ...

### Readings and Reflections

accompanied by flute music  
from 5:45 to 6:15 pm

### Communion and Scripture

from 6:15 to 6:30 pm

### Story, Song and Conversation

from 6:30 to 7 pm

Come for the whole time or  
whatever part  
helps you prepare your heart for  
this holy night.

## Christmas Eve

### Worship

at **Stone United**,  
at 7:30 pm

Celebrate Christmas with the music  
of our choir, conversation, story,  
song and communion.



Sunday, December 29  
at 10 am,

at **Rockwood United** and  
Sunday, January 5, 2019

at 10 am,

at **Stone United**  
join us for

**Combined Worship.**

# How to get ready for Christ(mas)!



## Help to Brighten Someone's Day

- \* Send a Gift with Vision in a loved one's name.
- \* Give an unexpected compliment.
- \* Tell someone what you love about them.
- \* Surprise someone with a homemade treat.
- \* Send a card or thank-you note to a friend.



## Help to Care for Ourselves

- \* Have an instant dance party to your favourite song.
- \* Make a list of the gifts you bring to your community.
- \* List your hopes and goals for the upcoming year.
- \* What help might you need in reaching your goals? Ask a loved one to help you.
- \* List five things that bring you joy.

## Help to Care for the Earth

- \* Have dinner by candlelight.
- \* Pick up litter in a local park.
- \* Try to have a plastic-free or reduced-plastic day.
- \* Have a buy-nothing day.
- \* Have a garbage-free or reduced-garbage day.



## Help to Care for Each Other

- \* Do a kind deed for someone else.
- \* Offer to help a friend or family member do a chore.
- \* Make a handmade gift for a teacher or role model.
- \* Share a meal or snack with someone.
- \* Ask a loved one how you can pray for them this week.

## Help to Worship God

- \* Pray for yourself and the gifts you bring to your community.
- \* Pray for the courage to be faithful in difficult situations.
- \* Pray for the wisdom to find paths to peace.
- \* Pray with those who are lonely and in need of a friend.
- \* Pray with those who are looking for signs of hope and new life.



For more ideas  
visit [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca)  
search "advent unwrapped"



The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada

Adventunwrapped



Wishing you and your family  
a Merry Christmas  
and all the best in 2020!



## Letters, Notes and Emails ...

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I am filled with gratitude to you and to our United Church for the spiritual practice of Sabbatical, Vacation and Study Leave, which I enjoyed from May 1 to September 4, 2019. As I look back over the seven and a half years that I have served with you, there have been very significant changes in our family that I didn't take time to fully process. I simply adapted to the changes and moved forward. The time away gave me the opportunity to step back and make changes that I trust will help me serve God and you more faithfully.*

*I set aside time for family. In May, we welcomed Henry Andrew Smith, son of Helen and Robert and much-loved little brother of John and William to our family. Then I spent two wonderful weeks with my brother Rick at his new home in Gatineau. By ourselves for the first time in our lives, he worked, and I read, walked and cooked. When he was away for the long weekend, I went to a museum and church. Together we went to the Agriculture and Food Museum and the Dominion Arboretum which led to wonderful memories of our mom and dad and growing up on the farm. Back home, I enjoyed events leading up to and the wedding of our niece Kelly and her husband Dan at Casa Loma in Toronto followed by a dinner cruise on Lake Ontario. After the wedding, my nephew Max, niece Emma and I drove back to Gatineau to spend the last week of school with Rick so their mom, Heather could focus on end of the year at J.F. Ross. We had fun hiking, playing bocce ball, building Lego and forts, watching "Grizzy and the Lemmings" and cleaning Rick's basement. In July, John and I spent three amazing weeks with our Austrian "sister" Friedrun, "brother" Paul and their mom Elfie. We have known them for over 20 years since Friedrun first came as a Lions Club Exchange Student. We enjoyed Vienna, Bleiberg and Salzburg, good food, schnapps and ice cream, mountain climbing and swimming, sightseeing, museums and art galleries – Friedrun is the director of the Museum of Modern Art – and more. When we came home, we headed to Solitaire Lake near Huntsville to the cabin my brother Phil booked for us last summer. It was wonderful to be there with his wife and children and Robert's nephew Llywe from England. We made wonderful new memories as we held Phil close sharing stories of him, mom and dad with Max, Emma, John, William and Henry.*

*Throughout the summer I read or listened to 27 books, including theology and biography; history, fiction and historical fiction; and inspirational books. Richard Wagamese's **Embers**, Ralph Milton's **Julian's Cell** and Barbara Brown Taylor's **Gospel Medicine** inspired me. Rereading Gene Stratton-Porter's **Freckles** -- my grandfather's favourite book – brought joy. Deborah Quaille's **Rockwood: a Mosaic of Memories** kept you close to my heart and Trevor Noah's **Born a Crime** made me laugh while thinking deeply about what it really means to affirm everyone.*

*I worshipped in congregations in Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, Austria, Huntsville and Guelph; by myself with John; Heather, Max and Emma; Helen and her boys; and Lisa. I ended up at church picnics in Bridgeport and at Trinity in Guelph, at services led by colleagues one of which was an old friend who happened to be preaching at his wife's church and heard excellent preaching including that of Richard Bott, our moderator. The congregations were United, Anglican, Catholic and Hope House. Worship was in English and German; inside and outside; in pews and circles, and at tables. I felt uneasy when I didn't know what was expected of me; welcomed by people and familiar music, scriptures; and patterns of worship, and deeply loved when the choir at Holy Saviour Anglican sang the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm arrangement that was written in memory of my brother Phil by his music teacher Jeff Enns.*

*I had time for walking and exercising, and doctors and physio appointments that have left me feeling much healthier; finished projects – making cushions, mending a quilt and sewing book bags for Lisa and I; and enjoyed gardening with John, Sarah, Helen, Emma, John and William. We grew blueberries, onions, carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins and herbs. The gardeners and rabbits managed to weed out our peas and beans. I am still enjoying my roses covered in snow.*

*With Lisa preaching and John joining you for worship, I was able to hear how your summer was going. I grieved with you when those we loved were sick or died and laughed when I heard of the joyful moments you shared over the summer. John, Sarah, Lisa and I were delighted to share an Austrian brunch with you on my first Sunday back at Stone.*

*I am so grateful to Lisa for her leadership in worship; Rev. Mary Elliott's pastoral care; Patty Lancaster and Ellen Thomson for receiving pastoral concerns; and everyone who offered care through prayers, kind words, visits or notes; Sharyn Southworth's capable management of the office; our Sabbatical Committee Barb Eley, Brian Mack and Ellen Thomson, and all those who took on additional responsibilities while I was away.*

*Thank you for your love and respect, prayers and encouragement that made my Sabbatical a time of renewal. It was a gift and it is a gift to be back in our busy congregations.*

*Blessings,*



Dear Friends,

Autumn is one of my favourite times of the year. The fruitfulness of God's creation is on display for all to see. On various walks since mid-September, I've paused many times and stood in awe at nature's beauty in the form of the richness of color associated with plants, trees, and fungi. Close your eyes and imagine the following:

- the various shades of orange associated with towering maples and oaks
- the greenish-yellow of weeping willows bent over in the wind
- the brownish tinge of clusters of seeds ready to drop from the cedars
- the dark green of newly emerging winter wheat
- the russet of fall mums bursting out of their garden containers
- the deep brown of cattails swaying in a swamp
- the whiteness of puffballs beckoning to be uprooted
- the golden hue of corn stalks supporting a heavy load of cobs
- the red of juicy apples dangling precariously
- the deep purple of various varieties of thistles

As this spectacular palette gives way to the more grey tones of late autumn and eventually the whiteness of winter in Wellington County, color will be re-woven into a new tapestry for us to discover and to admire as the handiwork of God. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once stated, "Nature always wears the colors of the Spirit." My hope for us as individuals and as a community of believers is that we will regularly take the time to stop, to let the beauty of nature envelop us, and to offer a quiet word of thanks to the one we call Creator.

Brian Mack,  
Chairperson, Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

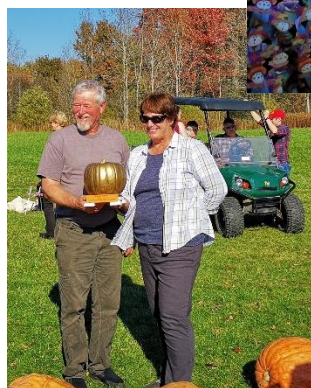
## Thank You

*Thank you for your ongoing support of our congregations of Rockwood and Stone. Your offering, the time you give, and the talents you share make our churches inviting places where people can make lasting friendships, grow in relationship with God and make a difference in the world through our outreach opportunities and the Mission and Service Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

*Our partnerships with the foodbank, the Rural Women's Support Program and Community Resource Centre of Centre and North Wellington through their Early ON program; our Alliance with Anishnabeg Outreach, which helped them purchase a washer and dryer, is offering healing to us and our Indigenous brothers and sisters; and "Bushels for Change" which with matching grants has raised over \$24,000 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which provides food in times of crisis for hungry people in the developing world; helps people grow more food to better feed themselves and their families; and provides nutritional support to malnourished people with a focus on pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children and advocates for public policies that enable families and communities to better feed themselves, and look for ways to engage and educate Canadians about global hunger .*

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*Members at Rockwood who contribute to the mortgage of the House of Joy each month allow us to pay down the principle and ensure East Wellington Community Services has a place to carry out their important ministry.*



## Committees and Groups ...

### **Rockwood Worship and Christian Education**

*Submitted by Barbara Eley*

The Worship Committee continues to organize greeters/ushers, coffee, scripture readers and media volunteers for each service. We give thanks for all those who volunteer for these tasks.

Liz Guthrie and Barbara Eley (chairs of the Stone and Rockwood Worship Committees) meet on a regular basis with Rev. Leffler to plan special services where lay leadership is required. We give thanks for Rev. Leffler's guidance in these preparations. Both Rockwood's and Stone's Worship Committees meet regularly to plan together. Our latest meeting was September 24, where we evaluated previous services and set dates for upcoming worship.

#### **Summary of Work**

April 14 – Palm Sunday communion was served, and the choir provided special music. Rehearsal was held at Barrie Hill to prepare for Good Friday.

April 19 – Good Friday service was at Barrie Hill United.

April 21 – Easter Sunday/ Earth Day-special music provided by the choir.

May 5 – Lisa Leffler began pulpit supply coverage.

June 9 – Pentecost and Rockwood Anniversary, Mary Elliot was guest minister and communion was served. The band provided special music.

June 30 – Summer service schedule began with a service at Stone United.

August 4 – Eramosa Ensemble provided special music.

September 1 – Lisa Leffler's last service as pulpit supply. A time of celebration and fellowship in appreciation of her work was held after the service.

September 8 – Combined service at Stone United to welcome Rev. Leffler back from sabbatical. Special music was provided by the ensemble.

September 22 – Kids' Church- we learned about The Good Shepherd.

September 29 – Orange Shirt Day and acknowledgment of the First Nations territory.

October 6 – World Communion Sunday-communion was served using a variety of breads and juices. We give

thanks for our communion team in their work of preparing, serving and cleaning up.

October 13 – Thanksgiving Sunday, the choir sang an anthem, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come".

October 27 – Kids' Church- we learned about the creation story.

November 9 – community choir lead by Barbara Eley participated in the Remembrance ceremony at the Rockwood Cenotaph. Rev. Leffler led prayer.

We will continue to provide Kids' Church once a month, whichever Sunday fits best with other events.

#### **Ensemble and Choir**

The Eramosa Ensemble (formerly the Rockwood/Stone Band) meets every Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm at Stone and provides music on a regular basis, such as at the picnic, on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Rockwood, and the upcoming Carol Sing.

The Rockwood choir meets every Thursday from 7 to 8 pm, and continues to provide musical leadership every Sunday, and to perform special music each Sunday, in the form of duets, solos, quartets, instrumental music and choir anthems. We give thanks to all who bless us with their gifts of musical talent.

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### **Stone Worship**

*Submitted by Liz Guthrie*

Stone Worship Committee attended four council and three combined worship committee meetings during the year. This committee also provides lay leadership when Heather is away.

#### **Since the April newsletter:**

April 28/19 – Sabbatical litany, farewell service and fellowship to wish Heather well on her Sabbatical

May 5/19 – Sept 01/19 We welcomed Lisa to fill in for the Sabbatical time. We thank Mary Elliott for offering pastoral care.

May 26/19 – The Pastoral Charge Picnic at Camp Brébeuf was lay led. Brian Mack and Barbara Parker presented the story of the Tower of Babel. Later we had the opportunity to build towers using spaghetti and marshmallows.

June 23/19 – Worship hosted a barbeque. All donations went to support the Canadian Food Grains Project

August 11/19 – We thank the Property and Finance Committee who led the Stewardship service.

September 8/19 – We welcomed Heather back from her Sabbatical. Thank you to the Lefflers who provided an Austrian brunch.

September 29/19 – Orange Shirt day. – Thank you to Pastoral Care who hosted coffee hour.

October 6/19 – Thank you to Pastoral Care for hosting World Communion.

October 13/19 – Thank you to all those who decorated so nicely for Thanksgiving.

October 20/19 – Thank you to Stephen Jackson, Anishnabeg Outreach, who brought a message of hope to Stone's 157<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A lunch gathering was held at the May farm after the service.

Oct. 27/19 – Thank you to Property and Finance for hosting coffee hour

November 10/19 – Thank you to the combined Worship Committees and choirs for leading the Remembrance Day service at Stone United.

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## **Stone Christian Education**

*Submitted by Tammy Smits*

In the absence of Bible Study during Heather Leffler's sabbatical, Lisa Leffler led a book study on the ***Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*** series in spring of 2019 which was enjoyed by those who attended.

The year-end picnic held at Camp Brébeuf on May 25, 2019 was hosted by the combined Worship Committees.

A joint yard/plant sale organized between the Foodgrains and Christian Education Committee was held on June 1, 2019. The congregation generously donated items and plants, and approximately \$650 was raised, not including the money from sale of the stained-glass windows that were removed from the church.

We have received positive reviews of the space at the front from two families with children. They appreciated the variety of materials provided.

### **Upcoming events:**

There will be no Christmas pageant this year; however, the youth along with Lisa and Heather Leffler will be invited to attend a group activity over the holidays.

Heather De Jonge and Lisa Leffler will host a spiritual wellness session on January 25, 2020 at Stone Church from 1 to 3:30 pm. Everything needed for the session will be provided. This is an opportunity to explore mindful, meditation practices that draw us nearer to God. We will focus on praying the scripture for this first event.

## **Rockwood Pastoral Care**

*Submitted by Ellen Thomson*

Over the summer months many families and individuals were telephoned and encouraged to participate in the photo directory project. Thank you to Carl Baker, Stone United, who coordinated the nine days of photos.

Rockwood United continued to care for one another during the Sabbatical time. Visits, telephone calls, email and cards were sent out for special occasions, thinking of you, illness and other. If you know of someone who may appreciate a card, please contact Lone Cox at [kit3mybluecat.xyz](mailto:kit3mybluecat.xyz). Rev. Heather Leffler tries to visit our shut ins twice per year.

Name tags are now prepared and are being utilized.

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## **Stone Pastoral Care**

*Submitted by John Leffler*

We arrange for greeters each week. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to help make our church family and guests feel welcome.

We served communion; provided devotions and lunch for a Stone Council meeting; and hosted fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who emails, phones and visits members of our congregation. Thank you to Patty who sends out cards to our church family.

Many families continue to receive Broadview with subscriptions paid for by the general fund. Thanks to everyone who made donations to offset the cost. Broadview, formerly The United Church Observer, is the successor to the weekly Methodist newspaper, The Christian Guardian, founded in 1829 with educator and political activist Egerton Ryerson as the editor. It may therefore be seen as the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English-speaking world. The Christian Guardian was regarded as a major voice in the life of a growing country: as today, it commented not only on matters of religion in Canada but education and political affairs. Ryerson went on to serve in government and is credited with founding the public-school system in Upper Canada.

Pastoral Care worked with Rockwood Pastoral Care to organize the photo directory. Thanks to Carl Baker for setting up the appointments with families from Rockwood and Stone and to the hosts from both churches.

## **Rockwood Outreach**

*Submitted by Marcia Haworth*

Throughout the year we continuously respond to the needs of East Wellington Community Services Food Bank by purchasing healthy items for their freezer as well as fresh fruit, and by donating grocery store gift cards.

At Christmas time we make a donation to the Rural Women's Support Program (RWSP) and also purchase gift cards for the women and their children to assist with Christmas expenses.

Our Lenten Quiz finally ended in a tie with a bit of cheating on our part! The donations totaled a very generous \$793 for EWCS food bank, Anishnabeg Outreach and the RWSP. We mostly allocate the monies at year end, although we offer on-going support to the food bank. Our Easter Food Drive on Easter Sunday for donations to the food bank resulted in an avalanche of toilet paper and deodorant for which they are very grateful, as are we.

Our food fight at the end of April was a huge success and we thank all participants, especially Lisa Leffler who brought us up to speed with her mastery of technology, not to mention, a huge quantity of donated items. We made a total of \$2074 and Stone United was the winner with \$1065. We were very proud of our \$1009.

Our food bank drive on Thanksgiving Sunday brought in a few new items and \$225 which we will convert into grocery gift cards shortly. Prior to that we had used some of the balance in the Outreach account to purchase hams and turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Our Silent Auction is on 17 November. We are hoping that people will enjoy the change in style. We are especially excited about our new foray into creating live outdoor arrangements and have enjoyed some festive foraging in forests and in folks' basements. We plan to create beautiful masterpieces. Just to remind you there will be no Grab and Go so there will be fewer items on offer. We are happy to accept Christmas themed items for our Deck the Halls stall. To date the "Company's Coming" stall has the most items with favourite food items for stocking up the freezer or to save on Christmas baking, or just for a special treat. There will also hopefully be restaurant and store gift cards. As of now "Comfort and Joy" could use a few more items. The beneficiaries of our fund-raising will again be Anishnabeg Outreach, the food bank and RWSP. Hearing Stephen Jackson's wonderful message at Stone's anniversary was very inspirational for us and reinforced that Anishnabeg Outreach is a perfect partner for us.

Our Mission and Service donations to October 31<sup>st</sup> were \$9385 so we may have a shortfall of about \$1000. However, we may catch up somewhat by year end.

The Advent food drives will involve both churches and will follow the same format as last year.

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## **Stone Canadian Foodgrains Bank Bushels for Change Project**

*Submitted by Bill Allen*

Stone United embarked on a new outreach project with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our project, called "Bushels for Change" had the objective of raising money to combat global hunger. A pumpkin growing contest was initiated in the Spring. Tammy and Amanda Smits and the youth of the congregation held a yard sale raising \$1,400. A challenge was issued to the congregation and broader community to fill a bushel basket with loose change. The project culminated in the Pumpkin Funfest Community Celebration hosted by the May family, on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The event included lunch, pumpkin weigh-off, pumpkin judging and various creative games. Enthusiastic participation by Barrie Hill and Rockwood congregations in addition to Stone members saw over 80 people in attendance.

The "bushel of loose change challenge" raising over \$2,000, added to the generous donations of more than \$2,600, and the yard sale proceeds, we have raised over \$6,000 to date. When matched 3:1 by the Canadian Government, our project has a total impact of over \$24,000 to provide relief for families dealing with global hunger and to help farmers adopt better conservation farming practices. Congratulations and a huge thank you to all who supported our first-year project!

*God is creative and self-giving,  
generously moving  
in all the near and distant corners  
of the universe.  
Nothing exists that does not find  
its source in God.  
Our first response  
to God's providence is gratitude.  
We sing thanksgiving.*

*From A Song of Faith © 2006*



## **Stone U.C.W.**

*Submitted by Edie Ward*

Ladies meet at the Church at noon with their bagged lunches, and tea and desserts are served.

We hosted the Annual Meeting of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council on Monday May 6.

At our May 10 meeting Bill Allen was our guest speaker who showed us pictures of his bike trip in France.

At our September 13 meeting Joyce Duffield showed slides of her cruise around Great Britain with Eileen McDougall.

Our Bakeless Bake Sale was held in September and again was another success. Thanks to all who donated.

Four ladies attended the 1st ever gathering "Celebration" of all Women of the United Church of Canada in WOW region at Mount Forest United Church on Saturday September 21, 2019. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Our next meeting will be November 8 at which time we will discuss the disbursement of funds for 2019.

December 13 is our Christmas Potluck lunch at noon.

Barb Parker will be our guest speaker telling us about her trip to Tasmania.

UCW will provide lunch for funerals, etc. of sandwiches, sweets, pickles, vegetables, fruit, tea, coffee and juice. Families are asked to make suggested donation of \$5.00 per person for the number requested.

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## **Rockwood Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Scott Jamieson*

Thanks to the committee members for their stellar work over the past year on behalf of the House of Joy and Rockwood United.

**House of Joy:** Since our last report most of the furnace grant money has been received so the new furnace is now paid for. Numerous small jobs around the building have been completed along with a full day of repairs done by Rogers' employees as a part of their volunteer day. The garage has been sided and looks quite good. Many little jobs were also accomplished for EWCS.

**Church:** The request for grant money as already mentioned has been paid out to us with a small portion still to come when we submit records to show how the new furnace has made us 'greener'. The basement has been substantially restored with a lot of work to stabilize it. The wheelchair walkway has been repaired to eliminate the large crack in the surface of the pad. The men's washroom has been repaired and painted now that the

roof vent seal was replaced by the company that originally installed the roof. Eaves and drainage around the building have also been addressed over the past summer.

With all the construction around us a detailed study of our stained-glass windows was undertaken by our group and by the Goetz team with everything photographed and video taped as insurance against damage.

This fall a new thermostat was installed in Heather's office to control the fireplace temperature. The dehumidifier was hooked up to run constantly without a person draining the tank so humidity issues should be relieved in Day Hall. A beautiful, new shelf was built and installed by Kevin Anthony in Day Hall entrance for coats and hats etc. Smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms have had their batteries changed in Heather's office.

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## **Stone Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Jack Ward*

Windows were installed in May 2019. The final cost for the windows was \$19,619.56 which was about \$300 less than the quoted price. An energy reduction grant from the United Church of Canada in the amount of \$11,583.87 reduced the net cost of windows to \$8,035.69. A final grant payment of \$1,000.00 will be paid after submission of the 2019 energy reports in 2020.

The old windows were carefully removed and have been made available for purchase by members of the congregation past and present as well as other interested parties. To date we have sold \$2,800 worth of windows and have commitments for about \$500 more. Some of these funds (\$650) went to the Foodgrains yard sale and the rest to general funds.

Water samples in July and October were okay and we continue to take samples every three months.

Two major fundraising activities occurred in October. First, the wrap-up of our Canadian Foodgrains Bank project with the Pumpkin Funfest hosted by the May family. This event raised over \$2,000 towards our project total. The second event was our annual Beef Dinner which raised \$4,900 supporting the operation of our Church.

Currently, the Church operating budget is running a \$6,000 deficit. However, with reduced transfers to the Pastoral Charge in November and December and the continued generous support of members, we anticipate covering our expenses by year-end.

The Church continues to be in a very healthy financial position with \$40,000 invested in GIC's and \$53,000 in the Oakes Fund.

*We are called on  
to share our tangible gifts, and  
also the intangible ones - joy,  
laughter, compassion.*

## **Rockwood Stone Finance & Stewardship**

*Submitted by Heather Leffler*

Our committee met on October 22 at Stone. As has become our practice, we started by writing thank you notes to members of our churches.

We decided to send a \$500 honorarium to Mary Elliott for providing pastoral care when Heather was on Sabbatical.

Treasurers were reminded that anyone who earns more than \$500 in the year must be issued a T4 slip. They were also asked to provide all banking information to be filed in the church office.

Stone Property and Finance were thanked for leading worship in the summer. Bill Allen's message was very much appreciated.

Our Treasurers Amanda Anthony at Rockwood, Bill Allen at Stone and Roy Steinberg for the Pastoral Charge shared the churches financial position. Roy negotiated a new contract with Cogeco which greatly reduced what we had been paying since our last contract ended.

We are in the process of reviewing the history of the manse fund. For this year, our committee requested a \$4,000 transfer from that fund to the pastoral charge account.

Erik Mathisen at the General Council Office advised us to keep the T3's from our investment with Canoe Financial on file. If Canada Revenue Agency questions us, Erik advised that we say "the pastoral charge is a non-profit entity that exists solely as an administrative construct of the charitable body and that any income accrues for the benefit of the underlying charitable bodies. There is clearly no intentional tax avoidance."

In 2020, each church will make equal payments to the pastoral charge throughout the year. With more people on PAR – Preauthorized Remittance there is no longer a need for reduced payments in the summer.

As part of Invite, Inspire, Thank, Heather is leading conversations on stewardship in worship. We continue to be very grateful for the generous support of our congregations, pastoral charge and outreach projects.

## **Rockwood Stone Ministry and Personnel**

*Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley*

The Ministry and Personnel committee met on November 3, 2019. The Minister's Annual Review had been conducted and the opportunity to reflect on the year and the sabbatical experience offered. The time for rest, rejuvenation and reflection was welcomed by Heather and gave her an opportunity for a resetting of priorities and ways of working. Lisa Leffler had provided the majority of the pulpit supply during the sabbatical and she was also provided with a meeting after the completion of the time in this role to reflect on her learnings. Overall the staff and congregations found the experience very positive and an opportunity for growth. Mary Elliott from Three Willows had provided back up ministerial support and payment of an honoraria to reflect the time spent has been approved by the Pastoral Charge Finance and Stewardship Committee from the sabbatical budget that had been set aside.

The meeting recommended the annual salary cost of living increase suggested by the United Church of Canada for 2020 of 1.9% to the pastoral charge for approval. Roy Steinberg Pastoral Charge Treasurer also noted increases in education leave and mileage allowance. These proposals apply to the Minister and Church Secretary. Each church is responsible to consider their own staff and service contracts annually and are reminded to consider both the minimum increase as well as other factors when determining compensation.

*We sing of Jesus,  
a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.  
He knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced  
the presence of God among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.*

*From A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith of  
The United Church of Canada  
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