
NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017



Greetings and a blessed summer to you all! Summer in Montreal is a time when we see our neighbours. The snow and cold chase us all from our cars to our front doors in the winter, but in the summer, we have the chance to reconnect and get to know our neighbours. The connectedness I am observing in my neighbourhood as summer approaches reminds me of the blessing of the community of faith here at Briarwood. God has gathered all of us together through the love of Christ and the unity of the Holy Spirit. It has been such a joy for me and my family to be welcomed into this church. Each person here has a special place in my heart and in the body of Christ here at Briarwood.

One aspect of the community here that sticks out to me is the unity that is growing between the two services. Did you know that people from both services bake muffins for Chez Doris, host our spaghetti/trivia fundraisers, attend the ladies' and men's lunches, and serve on the session and the board? Did you know that people from both services came together for an organ concert on Maundy Thursday to kick-off the all-night youth Prayer Vigil? The beautiful organ music brought the Scriptures about Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to life. The adults at the concert prayed, by laying-on-of-hands, for the youth before their vigil. The prayer-support from the adults strengthened the youth when they struggled to stay awake during the vigil. Likewise, the courage of the youth to keep an all-night prayer vigil was an inspiration to the adults. "How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" says Psalm 133:1. The Holy Spirit is building one community in Christ here at Briarwood, serving God in unity. Together we encourage each other in the faith and share the Good News about Jesus with others. That is beautiful to see.

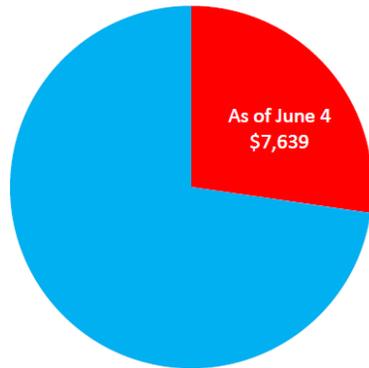
Blessings in Christ,

Sarina



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Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Children & Youth Ministry - 2018
Target - \$28,000



Events

Sunday June 25th. No services at Briarwood. Everyone is invited to the 10 am Outdoor Service, held by the river at the Baie d'Urfé Town Hall, junction of Lakeshore Road and Morgan Road, 12 minutes west of Briarwood.

Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic lunch. In the event of bad weather it will be held indoors at Union United Church, Maple Avenue, Ste Anne de Bellevue.



Men's Luncheon

Thanks

To a recently deceased member, who wished to remain anonymous, for a bequest of \$10,000 for our General Funds.

To Spectrum Voices for a donation of \$500 for the use of the church for their recent concerts.

To Susan Davidson for a donation of \$1,200 in recognition of support she has received from Briarwood. This donation is earmarked to go towards the future replacement of the keyboard.

Sudan Famine: As of June 4th, Briarwood had donated \$2401. To this will be added the Offering at the June 17th Spaghetti Supper, plus any further individual donations.

CYD 2018: As of June 4th, we have given \$7639 towards the target of \$28,000 to support the CYD in 2018.

And thanks to all for supporting the regular Offerings and Presbyterians Sharing, which are on budget.

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Ladies' Luncheon



Raphael Ashby

People

Our popular organist Olivier Lavoie-Gagné has left us to become Organist at l'Église St-Laurent, where we wish him every success. As a parting gift to Briarwood, Olivier gave a recital on June 11th in aid of our general funds.

As Olivier's summer replacement we welcome Raphael Ashby who is studying for his Bachelor's in Organ Performance at McGill. An organ builder by day, he plays trombone in orchestras and sings in choirs.

The Teasells are now established in Coquitlam and can be contacted at jslteasell@gmail.com

New Members

We recently received new members. To help you identify them, they are Jenny Barnes, who lives in St-Lazare and sits with her friend Sue Liberale; Jeannie Dudek, sister of Sandra and sister-in-law of Mike Caney; Robert Soubliere, who walks to church every week, all year round, from Elm; the New Brunswick Cooks - Trevor and Jennifer (the choir's most recent member) and their three great kids, Charlie, Alexa and Benjamin; and Brett Meyer, who recently received tenure at McGill and needs no introduction.

On another Sunday we welcomed Mark and Bertie Thauvette and baptised their daughter Penelope. We look forward to getting to know them better.

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Our New Elders

We recently welcomed three new elders. Heather Campbell and Moira Robson return to the Session after a break, and Charlene Hopper joined for the first time.

Charlene and Stephen Gaudet have attended Briarwood since just after Andrew Johnson left. “One of the reasons we joined was that we were impressed by how vibrant and well run Briarwood was during the vacancy”

For many years, Charlene has helped with our Church School, mostly for the 10 am service. “I love the fun and enthusiasm the kids bring. The only downside is preparing a lesson and sometimes finding there are no kids that morning”.

Charlene’s older daughter Emily is at Dalhousie finishing her Masters in English Literature, while Erin, now in Grade 9, looks forward to a summer ringette tournament in Finland. Charlene, a ringette player herself, is going with the team. As well as ringette, the athletic Charlene plays softball and is a runner. (Not too many other athletes on the Session these days).



A graduate of UNB and McGill, Charlene’s gentle manner and caring personality make her a natural paediatric nurse. She works full time at the Sick Children’s Hospital, specializing in kids with juvenile arthritis, lupus and other auto immune diseases. She enjoyed the charm of the old Sick Kids, but she really appreciates the new hospital at the Glen, now that the teething problems have been resolved.

Charlene looks forward to seeing how the Session works but claims to be a bit apprehensive about visiting families in her new district. She has no reason to worry!

A note from Stevie

In June we started a brand new Youth Bible Study initiative. The Youth Bible Study meets on Fridays from 7-8 pm to study the book of James. We had a fantastic first meeting, exploring how the epistles fit within the larger Bible context. We are also continuing our Vacation Bible Camp Leadership Training program, with three youth registered to help lead at Vacation Bible Camp at the end of the month.