



Pinegrove Post

"Reaching Out to Others With God's Love"
Spring 2017



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Pinegrove United Church

New Address?

If you have a new address, please let the church secretary know. Call, email or drop off a change of address card.

Email Listing

If you would like to be added to the Pinegrove email listing, please send your request to Joan Bailey, Communications – bailey@tbaytel.net



WHAT GIVES?

Easter is a time of mixed messages: of bunnies and the cross, of chocolate eggs and resurrection, of fluffy cuteness and an earth-shaking experience some 2000 years ago. No wonder we don't always know how to make sense of it. No wonder we're often more concerned with our Easter ham for the family dinner than this strange experience that a bunch of people had so long ago.

Maybe that's because Christ's resurrection is a pretty confusing story. Just put the four gospels side by side, and the one thing that is clear is that it's not at all clear what exactly happened that first Easter day. None of them seem very concerned about getting their stories straight. So what gives?

Of course the interesting thing about Bible stories is not that they're about cold hard facts, they're about powerful experiences that people had. These stories are not so much concerned with fact-checking of certain events as they are with how people responded to them. And people responded to Christ's resurrection in a big way. It transformed them on a fundamental level and they couldn't stop talking about it. That's one thing the resurrection stories all have in common and are clear about: it's about life-giving transformation - and sharing it with others.

So where do we see life-giving transformation happen at Pinegrove? How do we help people experience new life and new hope? I think the Mitten Tree, the Milk Fund, White Gift Sunday, Grow-a-Row and our contributions to the Mission and Service Fund are all good examples. And then there's the "new kid on the block": the Café del Soul, a free lunch twice a month, accompanied by life music and surrounded by local art, for anyone in this area who feels like it.

I remember when we first started thinking about it as a congregation there were some serious doubts it. After all, who says there's a need for it? We've never done anything like this before! Who would run it? Wouldn't it be costly? How about liability?

We could have played it safe and not do it; we could have listened to our head and decide that it was just too risky. But we didn't. We listened to our heart and went ahead with it. And now dozens of people gather at Pinegrove every other Thursday for good food and great company, for laughter and music, for hugs and a listening ear.

Café del Soul is an opportunity for people to experience life-giving transformation and share it with others. It's a safe place where you know it's okay to talk about the hard day you had, even cry a little if you feel like it.

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Holy Week Services

April 14 - Good Friday



GOOD FRIDAY

12:30 p.m. - Walk

A meditative walk with the cross begins at St. Mark's Anglican Church and concludes at Pinegrove.

2:00 p.m. - Service

Joint Good Friday service at Pinegrove with Rev. Charlene Scriver and Hubert Den Draak

April 16 - Easter Sunday



8:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service at Pinegrove in Fellowship Hall followed by a light breakfast for all.

10:30 a.m.

Joyful Easter Sunday Service and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary with Pastor Hubert Den Draak

Amazing Grace

*On that first Easter morning,
God filled the earth
with hope so real, joy so pure
and love so true, our hearts still
rejoice today.*

One person told me "they'll have to kick me out if they want to stop me from coming!" Someone else found a long-lost relative back at the Café del Soul. Many Café volunteers are becoming friends, sharing stories (and recipes). And somehow there's always enough food.

It's people experiencing resurrection in different ways. It's God at work. And the funny thing about it? It works both ways. All this positive energy is having an effect on us, too. There's an excitement in the air and a new sense of purpose. People in our area are interested in Pinegrove again. New ideas and new possibilities bubble up. Or as Jesus said, "Give, and you shall receive."

Resurrection at work right here and right now... Who'd have thought it?

Pastor Hubert



EASTER GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD



WELCOME SPRING !

We so look forward to this time of year don't we? The longer days and warmer temperatures bring us hope for the coming spring and summer. A couple of questions for you all this newsletter.

1. Do you wear your name tag every week so that newer people to our Church find it easier to talk to you?
2. If someone is sitting in your pew, do you say something or just sit somewhere else for that day?

Remember, we need to make a visitor to our Church feel welcome the first time they come so that they may come back again. It's the little things that make a difference they say, so let's all try to be on the lookout for ways that we can do this. It's important.

Hope to see you at the Easter services coming up.

THE JOYS OF EASTER BE WITH YOU ALL.

Claire Belluz,
Chair

GIVING BY PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

PAR is a programme administered by The United Church of Canada that allows you to contribute to our church through a monthly withdrawal from your bank. You can designate your gift to local Pinegrove expenses, the Mission & Service Fund or another area. This is a convenient way for you to support your church as it provides a regular income for ongoing weekly commitments, whether you attend every Sunday or not. You can join PAR at any time by contacting the church office or a member of the finance committee. Information pamphlets are also available in the Narthex.



submitted by Wendy O'Connor

Café del Soul has had an amazing winter! Volunteers weren't sure whether colder temperatures would keep people away, or attract more into the Café's warm and welcoming atmosphere. Well, it turned out to be the latter, and by March the Café was routinely seeing 40 to 50 guests at its luncheons. The St. Patrick's Day Café was a special treat, featuring yummy mac &

cheese, green cupcakes, and the music of a young musician from the Kam Valley Fiddlers.

There are new faces at every Café del Soul, as word of it spreads in our community. Many regular guests pick up friends along the way who don't drive.

If you are downstairs, check out the art of local painter Sandra Russell, which will be featured until near the end of April.

With our growing numbers of guests, new volunteers are always welcome - just talk to me or Pastor Hubert. And don't forget to come out to a Café if you have not yet - next ones are April 20, May 4 and May 18.



Sandra Russell,
featured artist for March/April

A NOTE FROM FINANCE

We have been fortunate to have good people like you supporting our church. For this we sincerely thank you!

If you looked at our annual report or attended the annual meeting, you will know of our deficit budget for 2017! **The deficit totals \$12,212.44 short of our budgeted income for 2017.** We need to be aware of this in the year ahead. We do have three major fundraisers - the Green Thumb Tea, the Fall Supper and the Country Christmas Tea, but these are all part of the budgeted income as well.

Part of the expense of running the church is maintaining the physical plant. In the fall of 2016, we spent \$5,500 on repairing the roof and the steeple. But this spring, we have seen the benefits of that repair as we have had no ice falling over the church entrance and no leaks on the interior of the church.

That is just one example of the day-to-day expenses that must be attended to. If you are able to raise your givings a bit this year it would certainly help us to meet our budget. Or perhaps you'd like to donate some money to the "roof fund" on your envelope - it all will help.

You may see other small fundraisers going on throughout the year. Currently, Jill Schutte has challenged us to "Give Up a Cup to Pinegrove" (see sidebar.)

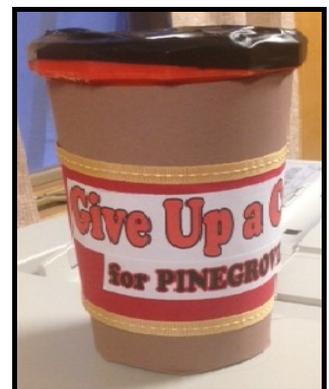
As a small reminder, by going on PAR you can ensure that your offering is constant whether you are able to attend each Sunday or not.

United Church Observer Magazine

April 27th is the deadline to renew your subscription to the United Church Observer. The cost is only \$25 for the whole year. If you are currently a subscriber, you will be contacted to see if you wish to continue. If you are not a subscriber but are interested in becoming one, please contact Cathi Siemieniuk at 935-2525 or Iris Calvert at 935-2656. To renew or to begin subscribing, place your money in an envelope marked "Observer", along with your name and address, and place the envelope in the collection plate.

GIVE UP A CUP FOR PINEGROVE

Many of us "give something up" for Lent. So here's an idea: why not "give up" just 1 cup of (Timmy's) coffee a day, and donate that twoonie to Pinegrove? You'll find a big donation mug in the lobby. Let's fill it - and refill it and refill it! Little things like this can add up to make a big difference. Let's see how much we can raise during the year.



Pistachio Marshmallow Salad

- 1 container Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 small box instant pistachio pudding mix
- 6-7 drops green food colouring, optional
- 3 c. miniature marshmallows
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained
- ½ cup chopped pistachios or walnuts

Directions: In a large bowl, combine whipped Cool Whip, pudding mix and food coloring, if using. Fold in the marshmallows and pineapple. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Just before serving, sprinkle with nuts. Yield: 12 servings.

Mandarin Orange Salad

- 1 small box orange Jello
- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 1 pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 container Cool Whip, softened

Directions: Dissolve the Jello in 1 cup of boiling water. Let it cool slightly. In a large pyrex bowl, beat the cream cheese. Add the slightly-cooled Jello to the cheese mixture and beat until well-combined. Drain the mandarin oranges and add to the cream cheese mixture. Fold in the Cool Whip. Chill for a few hours or overnight before serving.

Note: The above two salads are very pretty as side dishes for your main meal, but either of them can also be used as a light and refreshing dessert! Great when you're having lots of company!



2017 GREEN THUMB TEA

Our 19th annual Green Thumb Tea will be held on Wednesday, May 24th. Our topic this year will be "Edible Plants". Tickets are \$7 (includes beverage, decadent dessert & speaker) All sales start at 5:30 p.m. firm. We will definitely need lots of help. Watch for a list that will be up soon in the vestibule. If you are able, we need garden crafts for the bazaar, baking for the bake table, items for the Silent Auction table, perennials, and house plants. Poster will be out soon, so please take one and put it up somewhere in your neighbourhood to help us advertise the tea. This is one of Pinegrove's major fundraisers, and we need, and greatly appreciate, everyone's help. For further information, please contact Marion Wilson at 939-2966.

Green Thumb Tea
Pinegrove United Church
(Hwy. 130, between Arthur Street and Rosslyn Road)
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
"Edible Plants"
Tea Tickets - \$7
(includes beverage, decadent dessert & speaker)
All Sales - 5:30 p.m. firm
Tea Time - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Speaker starts at 7:00 p.m.
* Bake Sale * Silent Auction *
* Giant Plant Sale * Yard and Garden Crafts *
* Seeds * Bulbs * Shrubs * Perennials * House Plants *
(Tables of 10 can be reserved. Advance tickets must be prepaid.
Tickets may be available for sale at the door.)



On Sunday, April 30, there will be a meeting after church to discuss the upcoming Green Thumb Tea. Your input is important to us so please attend if you are able.

OUTREACH

Please remember the Rural Cupboard Food Bank pick up each month – your donations are gratefully received. The delivery pick up date is always listed in the bulletin.

A couple of Sundays ago, we honoured all the volunteers from our church who have worked at Shelter House. Pinegrove has been involved in the project for 30 years, and 3 of the original group were there to be honoured as well. Our sincere thanks and congratulations are extended to all those volunteers for a job well-done!

Although we no longer have groups that volunteer to cook a meal once a month, there is a serving group, "Brian's Shelter House Group", that serves the meals only, and could use some volunteers. If anyone is interested, please call Brian or Wendy Vistorino at 628-0335, or Pastor Hubert at the church office.

"COME TO THE CROSS" - At 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 14, the Thunder Bay Community Choir is presenting "Come to the Cross", sacred music for Good Friday, at Trinity United Church. Special guests include the Bells United Handbell Quartet. A free-will offering will be collected with proceeds going to two local charities.

FINNISH PANCAKE BRUNCH - Pinegrove's annual Finnish Pancake Brunch was held on March 5. Although the attendance was not as great as we would've liked, those who came out to eat really enjoyed the breakfast. Our profits were almost \$200. Thanks, everyone, who came out to support this fundraiser.