

# COMMUNICATOR

## FALL 2018



### Fenwick United Church

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Minister: Dianne Everitt

Music Director: William Outred

Children's Ministry: Linda Sharpe-Pietras

Secretary: Patrice Walker

### Thoughts from John Blankenburg

Another Communicator – I would love to say a few words – I know, I know, I usually say far too many. This is known to me. However, let me have some fun. I understand that a lot of indigenous peoples have an understanding of the natural world in terms of cycles, of circles of time and events. You see this in the seasons, fall, winter, spring and circle around to summer. Women seem to feel this cyclical existence, more than men, which is understandable. Perhaps men should pay more attention to these natural cycles, especially as we continue to destroy the creation in which we have our being.

I had a quiet summer. It became too hot and especially muggy to really get excited about outdoor activities. Well, Bocce ball. And it was dry. At least the mosquito population was not up to its usual Fenwick explosion. And there was just enough rain that the lawn death was short lived. Cycles. Drought and Flood. We are able to feel the effects of both, thanks to a global outlook. Now if we could just act with some measure of forethought. Ignoring human impact on climate change is, at first sight, wilful childish ignorance which moves into – what – a glorying Trumpian brutality toward God's good work in creation with no regard for children and other living beings. Humanity is after all, a part of creation, we are embedded within creation, not standing above it. There's a cycle I don't like to think about.

This idea of cycles takes me back to Niagara Presbytery, at least for a few more meetings. We will shortly see the outcome of large scale church change – at least in the governance area. I am always amazed at how “polite” conversation asks for separation of Church and State. How can we effect change in the state, without the underpinning of the religious imperative? Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, freeing the prisoner – all of these are remediated through political action, with a religious background.

I look forward to the next part of the cycle, which is of course a warm welcome to Dianne Everitt and her family, here in Fenwick (and at Bethany.)

## **Life Is a Journey**

Have you been out this summer and driven around the Niagara Peninsula? There are hills and valleys, twists and turns, and even potholes and construction. Well, our Church life has been an eventful journey in the past while too. A search committee was formed back in February of this year. They were charged with finding someone to lead us forward as a result of Rev. Alan McLean's retirement at the end of August. The journey for that committee was, without doubt, one of twists and turns, some rough roads and even some deep potholes. Finally a decision was made that brought two churches closer together. Whoever thought that an old Indian trail would join Bethany and Fenwick together (Canborough Road.) The search committee developed the concept of becoming learning sites for a student intern – Mrs. Dianne Everitt. She will learn this trail well.

She and her husband, Jim and their four children will be moving into the Welland area in late August and she will take up ministry responsibility in September. Her first service will be on September 9 and the worship committee has declared this Sunday as “Meet and Greet” Sunday. Service will start at 11:00 am; our usual starting time during the regular church year. Hopefully you can stay after the service and chat with this new family joining us during coffee hour (could be cool drinks dependent on the weather!)

I, as chair of Council, wish to extend a warm welcome to this family but also I wish to express a huge “Well Done” to the search committee for the task they have worked on so diligently to bring Dianne into our midst. Now I am told that they need to go into hibernation till next May when Dianne will have completed her internship journey and will be ordained.

As we continue this Christian journey with hills and valleys, I ask that God grant us the vision to see our way forward in Christian faith.

*George Dewar, Chair, Fenwick United Church Council*

## **The Search Committee Proclaims the Good News!**

Dianne Everitt will be joining us effective September 1 as an Intern Minister. Dianne has just completed her Master of Divinity degree at Emmanuel College in Toronto and is now a candidate for Ordained Ministry in the United Church of Canada. She will complete her 10 month (September to June) internship with us, following which it is our hope that she will remain with us as an Ordained Minister.

To make this happen, we have entered into a shared ministry arrangement with Bethany United Church in Attercliffe. Each of the two churches have hired Dianne on a half time basis, thereby creating one full time position. Bethany and Fenwick have not become a two point charge. Each congregation retains its status as a separate pastoral charge. A coordinating committee with representatives from each church has been established to deal with matters of common interest. Dianne will conduct two services each Sunday, the first at 9:30 am at Bethany, and the second at 11:00 am at Fenwick.

Dianne is the mother of four wonderful children: David, Marie, Joey, and Colleen. She has been married for 18 years to Jim, who is retired and according to Dianne, a saint. The children do the usual kid things: piano lessons, curling, chess, soccer, etc. and yes, even have messy rooms from time to time. The Everitt family is moving from the Parry Sound area to Niagara to join us, and part of the attraction is that Dianne has roots here. Her mother, née Grassie, grew up on Steele Street in Port Colborne in the 1940s - 1960s. Her cousin, Sandra Easton, is the Mayor of the Town of Lincoln, and her ancestors were grape and peach farmers in Beamsville and Grimsby. She has many relatives still living in Niagara.

In Dianne's own words her “gifts lie in meaningful and relevant, Bible-based worship, pastoral care, celebrating God's gifts of music, and honouring a church's traditions while being open to new ideas.”

Dianne will be joining us September 1<sup>st</sup>. However, she will lead her first Sunday service with us the week following, on the 9<sup>th</sup> as the September 2<sup>nd</sup> service is the last of this summer's joint services at Fonthill, led by Rev. Garry van Bruchem.

*Search Committee: Ruth Dewar, Tammy Brown, Rosemary Chambers, Janet Rutherford, Brian Walker, Peter Baker, Bob Pearce*

## U.C.W. News – 56<sup>th</sup> Year

Welcome back after a long hot summer. We hope that your summer was relaxing and enjoyable. We look forward to meeting our new worship leader, Dianne Everitt and her family and we welcome them to Fenwick.

Our first UCW meeting is Monday, September 10 at 1:30 pm. We will catch up on the summer news and activities and plan our pie making date. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We hope that you have been preserving the bountiful crop of fruits and vegetables and will share your hard work and favourite recipes to sell at the Country Store at our November Bazaar on Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3. The group have done the famous dill pickles (47 jars.) Come early to the bazaar, bring a friend and shop early for your favourite things. The knitters have been busy with their projects and welcome new members.

We extend an invitation for Bethany United to join us. Stay tuned for more news in the bulletins this fall. See you in September.

*Sylvia Walker, UCW President*

### Choir News

Bill Outred, our Director of Music, will be back from holidays on September 9. The choir will help to lead the music during this service. Choir practise will begin on Wednesday September 12 at 7:00 pm. New members are welcome. If you like to sing, come out and join us for a fun time. That's Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm for practise.

### Coffee Hour at Fenwick United Church

After most Sunday services, members of the congregation and guests are invited to attend fellowship hour (i.e. coffee hour) immediately following the church service. It is a great opportunity to engage with the congregation. During this time, volunteers of the congregation coordinate this event. Hosting coffee is a great opportunity to contribute to church activities, without a large time commitment. I would like to thank everyone who has assisted with coffee hour this year, your efforts are noticed and appreciated.

We will be seeking new volunteers in December! If you are interested in volunteering and have not done so before, we will be happy to provide training. If you have any questions, please contact Deanna White, Coffee Coordinator.

## *Join Us For*



## *Begins Sunday, September 9*



*Learning to live like Jesus  
through  
Stories - Crafts - Games*

*Looking ahead to: Rally Sunday September 16  
for hotdogs and hamburgers*

*Christmas Store and Craft Night  
at the end of November*

*and*

*Bell Choir and Christmas Music  
during Advent Season*

Join in the Fun and Fellowship  
at Fenwick United Church

Rally Sunday BBQ

Sunday, September 16

Hamburger & Hot Dog Lunch  
Build your own Sundae



Worship and Children's Church  
at 11:00 am  
BBQ at 12:00



# FALL BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 2018

Friday November 2 ~ 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
with Afternoon Tea

Saturday November 3 ~ 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  
with Lunch 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

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Country Store with Jams, Jellies, Pickles  
and other Preserves

Hostess & Teacher Gifts

Unique Crafts & Knitting

Silent Auction

Fenwick's Famous Bake Table

*Do your Christmas shopping early –  
prices will be very reasonable. Bring a friend!*

