



The United Church of Canada in Elgin and Portland
Our Churches United
Spring/Summer News and Notes



June, 2015

**Elgin-Portland
Pastoral Charge**

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Pastoral Charge

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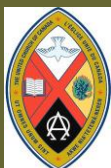
web site:
www.eppc-ucc.ca

Office Hours:
Wed.: 9 am-1 pm
Thurs.: 9 am-3 pm

Sunday Services:
Portland – 9:15am
Elgin – 11:00 am

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Rev. Takouhi's Reflection

God is Not Dead!

"Then God said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.'" —Ezekiel 37:4-5

As I get ready to leave for our Bay of Quinte Conference's Annual Meeting (May 28-31), to discern and vote on decisions for the future of the Church; I hear the Spirit saying... *God is Not Dead!*

Do you believe that? For some of us this might come as a shock, because we have already packed our bags and are ready to put God in a box and give up. Our tendency often is to pay attention to the negative in life rather than the positive. We know it is a fact of life that churches are closing and changing their ways of operating, but that does not mean that God is dead... Change is not death. As Easter People we know that death does not have the last word and we need to remember this EVERYDAY not just once a year.

Every three to five hundred years the church changes, emerges and evolves; becomes relevant to her own context, but the foundation stays the same – God's Love NEVER changes or dies.

I believe, when we hold tight to "the way we were", we are telling God, we do not want to enter, experience the Promised Land and get to the top of Mount Zion – we want to stay at the foot of Mount Sinai, where we hold on to our creeds, dogmas and false gods. We forget that we need to move forward if we want to get to the Promised Land; because "We Make the Road by Walking", (This is the book we are reading within our VIBE Group gatherings. Give us a Try, you will not regret it!)

So, today, my News for this Newsletter is, "**God is Not Dead!**" The Church is not dead either; she is only transforming to reflect more and more the image of her Creator, God of Love.

.../2

God Is Not Dead! (continued)

When you hear of Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge is going through the Visioning Exercise, be filled with Joy and not despair, because God is at work. Visioning is to seek God's Will. Visioning is to seek our Focus and Strength. Visioning is to be Open to the Spirit and letting go of the status quo. Visioning is Growing.

On this 90th Anniversary of this United Church of Ours (June 10, 1925), let us promise each other to focus on all the Good that is amongst us and not give in to the negativity that the world proclaims – That comes from fear.

Today, May 28, is my fourth ordination anniversary, which many of you came and celebrated with me at John Abbott College, in Quebec. I remember clearly having a conversation with one of my Presbyterian Colleagues, Costa who said, "Takouhi, we must be fools for going into a vocation that the future looks insecure"; however, we both agreed that God's Love, Grace, Mercy is secure and unshakeable.

Prophet Ezekiel reminds us of this Hope, even if things look dried out and dead. The breath of God gives life and these bones live if we only open our hearts for the breath of Life to enter in and Live in us.

Friends, make time for your Soul – go to the Spa for the Soul regularly, stay close and inside your community of Faith, Focus on what Good is happening, offer your Talents, Love everyone unconditionally and see what happens.

Love lifts us up from the foot of Mount Sinai and brings us to the top of Mount Zion – That is the PROMISE of God; we just need to walk and adjust our attitude.

GOD IS NOT DEAD! Thanks be to God - Amen.

Notes from the Chair of the Official Board:

You may have heard this expression before, "if you're not moving forward, you're falling backwards"... something similar to standing still on the down escalator. The Official Board has formed a small committee to consider a visioning exercise for our pastoral charge. The committee has had its initial session and will report to the Board at the next meeting. Hope to have something on the new Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge website soon.

Have you seen the new website? Well take a look: www.eppc-ucc.ca

Official Board meetings normally take place quarterly. Our next meeting is on June 9th. Besides the usual business, we'll receive a report from the Visioning Committee and hear about highlights from the Bay of Quinte conference, which is held annually in May.

Maureen and I took our two young nephews to church in Elgin last week. The younger of the two informed us on the way home that he is definitely going to Vacation Bible School this summer. It's going to be fun! Smart young man.

Mark Bee

**COME AND JOIN
"G" FORCE**

God's Love in Action

**ACT !
CARE !**



**Follow !
SHARE !**

**Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge
Invites ALL Children and Youth
Ages 5-13**

Vacation Bible School

**Monday - Tuesday, June 29-30
Thursday - Friday, July 2-3, 2015**
(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) 9:30 a.m. – noon
(Friday) 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Friday: BBQ Lunch will be served at noon followed by Presentations from the Children and Youth.

**At Portland United Church
10 Colborne Street**

ADMISSION IS FREE

REGISTRATION BY JUNE 25TH IS APPRECIATED

For more information or to register, please contact the church office at
(613) 272-2002 or EPUC@rideau.net

Please register no later than June 25 so that we can have a special spot saved just for
YOU! FIND US ON THE WEB: www.eppc-ucc.ca

Greetings from Elgin's Council!

Welcome back to our snowbirds, we missed you and hope you had a pleasant winter. Those of us who stayed are glad to have survived the cold and snow for another year. Thanks to our active churches, winter's bite was made more bearable.

After Christmas celebrations were over the two choirs of Elgin and Portland began practice for our Easter cantata, Come Touch the Robe. This year it was successfully performed in Elgin. Thanks go out to our tech crew who not only made us sound so good also recorded the performance and I am sure if you ask, they would make you a copy.

Work was carried out to finish the restoration of the stained glass windows so that we may enjoy their beauty for the next 100 years or so. We also did some rearranging of our pews to allow more accessibility across the back of the sanctuary and work is in progress to make space for people in wheelchairs who attend services and special events. Thanks to Jim Earl for organizing both these jobs. We still do not have a property chair so if Jim asks for some help I hope we will be able to accommodate him.

Our vision for this year is to continue to be a presence in our community. We are still supporting DIG (the Dental Issues Group) and are planning a float for the Elgin Days Parade to reflect that and its importance. The food bank will also continue to be supported. A new one this year, a little closer to home, we have started a Youth Transportation Fund to assist with the cost of transportation to conferences or other youth events within our church. Anyone can contribute through their offering.

Another avenue of our vision is to become more familiar with other religions, more than what we get from the media. Our first effort in that area was to invite Imam Mohammed Jebara, a Moslem cleric from Ottawa to talk with us. He came on May 3rd

and was warmly welcomed by those who attended. In his talk he was able to point out how similar our beliefs are. We believe in the same God, even though we call him by a different name. He also pointed out that those who are carrying out terrible acts in the name of Allah have no connection to those who follow the Moslem beliefs. Our next event will be sometime in September when we will host a Jewish Rabi. Watch for announcements when we have a firm date. Be prepared to ask questions. After that, who knows who we will invite next? Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions.

Of course, one of the things we do best is eat. Over the past months we have been treated to a Caribbean dinner, prepared by our own Brian Blowes and a delicious pork supper prepared by our Social Committee under the direction of our new chair Marilyn Benn, assisted by our faithful helpers. Watch for our next events, a fish fry and, of course, our annual Barbeque.

Something else you should be watching for is the start of our annual Summer Concert Series. Margaret Ross has lined up some wonderful entertainment for the summer, starting June 6. Thank you Margaret for all your hard work.

As you can see it's not only spiritually uplifting but fun to be a member of our congregation. Thanks to all who support and help. God bless you all.

Sandra Smith, Chair

Quilting Bee – On Wednesday July 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Rideau Sewing Group will gather at the Portland United Church. We will be working on quilts that are donated to the Perth, Smiths Falls Hospital to be distributed to patients undergoing Kidney Dialysis, treatment for Cancer, and Palliative Care.

Anyone wishing to be part of this is welcome to join us. For further details please contact Joan Horsfall at joan@lenscove.com

Portland Food Bank

Our numbers are down by 4 households: 2 clients have returned to work and another 2 clients were “Double Dipping” (using other Food Banks as well as ours). We are in continual contact with other Food Banks in our area to make sure that none of our clients are using other Food Banks: that is one of our three simple rules of service.

Our clients take full advantage of the Clothing Co-op and we are most grateful for this additional service. Our monthly cost for the Good Food Box is now \$185.00 payable to Country Roads Community Health Centre. Unfortunately with the rising cost of food we have placed limits on certain items, like coffee, tea, large jars of peanut butter, large jars of jams and soda crackers. Our clients have been very cooperative with these changes. Donations are down from previous years and we are keeping to our budget very closely.

We would like to thank you all for your generous donations and remind you of the Food Bank Hamper in the sanctuary.

Caring and Sharing in Elgin

It's Newsletter time again. The plan is that this newsletter has been delivered to you by one of our friendly visitors; myself (Deborah Jodoin), Jim Earl, Marion Cooper, Cathy Ryan, Frank Allan, or Heather Gribben. We are part of the Elgin United Church family. As we all know Reverend Takouhi would like to be available to visit everyone on a regular basis but she cannot. We hope that we can fill some of the emotional support needs of the church family (ourselves included) that a caring neighbour might fill.

Delivering this newsletter gives us a chance to say hello and have a chat and see you again in six months or spend some time together. We specialize in listening and being respectful of any confidences that are involved.

We need your help in two ways!

Firstly If you think you know someone who would be a good member of our team who has skills in confidentiality and empathy and listening, please let us know.

Secondly if you or someone you know may benefit from a visit by one of our group please let us know.

Cheers, Deborah Jodoin
(613 483 6720 or e-mail to jdjodoin@hotmail.ca)

MARATHONERS GONE VIRAL!

GOAL: \$75,000

RAISED: \$106,328

SPONSORS: 1287

142% OF GOAL ACHIEVED!

125 team members ran the Ottawa Marathon on Sunday May 24th, and together raised over \$100,000! Sindy Hooper, who spearheaded the team and is a recovering pancreatic cancer patient, raised \$ 12,000 and finished with a qualifying time for the Boston Marathon. Janet McKeage raised \$7,000 and also finished, but missed the cut off time for Boston. All proceeds are going to Dr Bell's Pancreatic Research at the Ottawa Hospital Foundation. Janet and Sindy wish to thank all who supported them personally and by attending the music concert in PUC. They were thrilled with the response!

**EUC Council 2015 Visioning – Youth Funding
Funding for Conference
Youth Programs**

Through visioning at all levels of the United Church of Canada we seek to give more priority to Missions - Relationships with others. One perspective looks to our future and seeks to provide Youth with mission experience.

Over the years this Pastoral Charge has considered the need for and challenges of creating youth program opportunities. In the last twelve months we have seen the challenges of available programming and leadership resources being addressed. Bay of Quite Conference regularly schedules youth programming during the May annual meeting and undertakes a fall retreat. Rev. Takouhi is passionate about youth programming and is eager to facilitate participation of our youths in these Conference initiatives.

On November seventh five youths from our Pastoral Charge attended the Bay of Quite Conference Youth Retreat in Carleton Place. EUC members were Kyra Chant, Gabe Leggett & Alex Price. Our leaders were Rev. Takouhi and Cathy Ryan. Following the retreat our youths and leaders gave enthusiastic reports during a worship service. Some of our youths have attended the 2015 Annual Meeting in Wellington and Belleville on May 29-31.

One of EUC's 2015 visions is to facilitate Youth participation by building a \$1,000 fund from special donations to help pay for travel and registration. Because these events take place in various locations across Eastern Ontario a coordinated busing plan is often considered. Congregational funding could be part of a cooperative effort to ensure such an initiative would be feasible.

This initiative provides our congregation with a tenth local mission opportunity to which we can commitment time, talents or financial resources. We each have preferences about missions that are meaningful for us. Youth Funding may be one that you feel compelled to support.

Jim Earl, EUC Council

VIBE IN MY LIFE

A few years ago, I started going to VIBE with other members and Rev. Takouhi as our facilitator.

We have visited a number of books and resources that are followed by discussions: great times and a great group of people!

The opportunity to engage in a spiritual and philosophical circle has been so worthwhile.



MUSIC NOTES

With summer approaching, our dedicated choir members will hopefully take some time away from the "choir loft". Services during July & August, for the most part will feature small groups and soloists and as in the past we will continue to celebrate together joyfully. God willing, the Fall will bring some extra energy and fuel the hopes to do something Special for the Advent Season. For regular attendees and summer visitors, please remember music requests are most welcome. Just give Dave a "heads up".

Sing-cere-ly The CHOIR

DIG INTO OUR DELICIOUS LUNCHESES FOR D.I.G. (Dental Issues Group)!

Portland's monthly luncheons for D.I.G are becoming quite the social time and are gaining in popularity! We are now seeing on average 30-35 attendees and the proceeds derived from donations for our annual goal are also on the rise....all great news for our community service and the Dental Issues Group. Our recent May 26th luncheon raised an astounding \$228.35 !!!!! What marvelous support we have!

Our Volunteers are amazing, and we are seeing many new guest smiling faces come through our doors. On that note, Peggy your continued "presence, guidance and kitchen service" to each and every Luncheon Host has been a Blessing.....from all of us, thanks for all you do.

To our regular "never miss" member patrons, thank you. Your continued dedication is indeed our Bread & Butter. The C.R.C.H.C. staff also pay us many compliments on the meals provided and we truly appreciate their show of support for the cause. It's so wonderful that we are all in this together.

Our 2015 calendar (every 4th Tuesday) have dates yet to be filled. News...we are having more husband & wife teams now get involved. Have some fun - we welcome girlfriend teams to sign on or how about a "men only" kitchen team? Game On! Only the July and October spots are left to fill! If you are available to become a Tuesday "Host Chef" please speak with Norma or Carol.

Your upcoming Luncheon Hosts & their proposed Menus are listed below.

JUNE 23 : Jan & Bruce Haskin and Pat Gourlay (Deluxe Summer BBQ Burger lunch, including dessert and beverage.)

JULY 28 ____? **Can you volunteer?**

AUGUST 25: Jane & Duncan Pickard (buffet of 7 + varieties of cold salads, dessert & beverage)

SEPTEMBER 22: Darragh Elliott & Lusine (baked salmon w/white sauce over rice with vegetable, dessert & beverage)

OCTOBER 27: _____? **Can you & your spouse or friends be our Host?**

NOVEMBER 24: Carol & Dave Irwin (Hearty Vegetable soup & grilled ham & cheese panini, dessert & beverage)

DECEMBER 29: Norma Cummings & Louise Martin (Louise's Tourtière , veggies & salad, dessert & beverage)

Growing Our Support for the Dental Issues Group (DIG)

The Dental Issues Group is a health initiative of Country Roads Community Health Centre (CRCHC) in Portland. It is a community program based on local visioning and funding that attempts to assist the less fortunate who can't get oral health treatment due to gaps in our provincial health insurance program. These people are unwell or uncomfortable being out in public due to their oral issues. As stated in our Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge 2014 Annual Report "this is still the only act in town that can assist those who fall through the cracks".

Since the inception of DIG, Portland and Elgin (EUC) congregations have committed to annual fund raising goals. Unfortunately we are still the primary funding sources. We have the opportunity to grow our levels of support and encourage others in our community to donate to this invaluable mission within our own community.

Several of our church's annual public music events donate a portion of ticket sales to DIG. Representatives of DIG/CRCHC, such as Louise Pritchard, are invited to speak briefly to audiences about what is being achieved. Yet each annual report from CRCHC to EPPC remarks on their degree of dependence on our support. This year EUC has decided to enter a float in the Elgin Days Parade in July and our theme will be DIG. We are working with CRCHC to be able to gain recognition and share appropriate information with those attending the parade.

DIG is a proven program that meets a significant need in our community. Please continue to support DIG through your offerings and consider how you might secure additional support through other community groups you may be affiliated with.

Jim Earl, EUC Council

Well here we are, now at the end of our first full year with the retail store card program. To date we have received \$ 1,242 in earnings.



Many members have answered our Fundraising call for help, and it has been successful. Simply stated, because you've purchased your grocery, gas, restaurant and department store cards and perhaps even "gifted" family and friends with store cards on special occasions, we've done well.

Thank You for your interest in this FUNdraising initiative. We have 39 registered supporters on our list of people who have ordered over this past year, but regularly only 4-8 individuals or families actually place a monthly order. Can you imagine how well our church would be doing if all our supporters placed an order for just \$100 - \$200 in store cards per month? As one who does place these orders, I can happily saypotentially we could double or triple our annual earnings!

DID YOU KNOW? Essentially, if you spend \$150 on gasoline in a month, or \$300 in groceries, you can conveniently use these store cards in the same amount to make your purchases. An example is: a \$300 card for Independent Grocers (Loblaw's Corp.) equals \$300 in groceries. Just have the cashier swipe your store card at the completion of your shopping to pay for your order. Your cashier store receipt will tell you the balance left on the card ready for your next shopping day.

Our Fundscrip program has over 150 stores available for card purchases. Many individual grocery and restaurant cards are valid for purchases at a multitude of store chains because of their corporation while other's (eg: Subway, Tim Horton's, Canadian Tire, WalMart, Shopper's Drug Mart, Ultramar etc.) are store

brand specific. These are clearly marked on every card purchased.

If you are new to this store card concept, or have questions on how our

monthly ordering works, please speak with me. The minute you've bought a card, any card, through Fundscrip, Portland United has already been paid earnings on that purchase.

It's that Easy!

We place our Fundscrip orders on the first Sunday every month and the cards arrive by the end of that week. Pick up is on the following Sunday (or when possible, sooner). Order forms are located on the bulletin board.

Money for card purchases **must** accompany your Fundscrip order. Norma will accept cash or personal cheques (payable to Portland United Church - memo: Fundscrip). Orders may also be placed online and paid by designating Fundscrip as a payee at your bank... OR you can pay by EFT bank transfer (e-transfer).

There are many ways to set up your participation and actively contribute to this convenient, ongoing fundraising program.

Our next order date is **Sunday, July 5.**

Summer to Autumn order dates will be Sunday, Aug 3, Sept 6, Oct 4, & Nov 8.

It's So Easy.....

**Your everyday shopping
can =
our church earnings!**

Shop & Smile.

Carol & Norma

UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday June 19, 7 p.m. - DVD night at PUC – “Images of the Armenian Spirit”

Friday, June 26 – 1 p.m. - Portland UCW Pie Sale - Pre-orders please –

sign up on bulletin board or phone Sheila, 272-3531; or Connie, 359-1080.

Choices: Strawberry/Rhubarb, Cherry, Blueberry, Raisin. Orders must be in by June 24.

Saturday, June 27 – Four Rivers Youth Geocaching (Ages 10+) at Battersea United from 1-6 p.m.

Sunday, June 28 - Joint Picnic Service - 11 a.m. at Hanna Park in Portland

followed by lunch, and swimming. (Portland people please bring tasty salads and Elgin people yummy desserts). Also, everyone please bring a lawn chair, beverages and your own dinnerware: plate, cutlery, etc. *No service in Portland that Sunday. In case of inclement weather, this 11 a.m. service, followed by a lunch at Portland will be our back up plan. A 10 a.m. service will be held in Elgin for those not attending the picnic.*

Monday, June 29 – Vacation Bible School starts - see page 3 for details.

Friday, July 3, 7 p.m. - Abby Stewart and Turpin's Trail Concert at Elgin UC

Tickets available at Elgin Home Furnishings, PUC office and EUC. \$20 each (Students \$10)

Saturday, July 4 – Rideau Art Studio Tour Lunch at EUC

Sunday, July 5 – Rideau Art Studio Tour Lunch at PUC

Saturday, July 11 – Elgin Days - Bake Sale EUC

Exhibition by Heifer International – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. EUC

Sunday, July 12 – Joint Worship Service in Elgin at 10 a.m. – hear how Heifer International is teaching farming to end hunger in the world. (No service in Portland.)

Sunday, July 12 – Ecumenical Worship Celebration 7 p.m. at the Elgin Municipal Complex Community Hall.

Friday July 17, 7 p.m. - DVD night at PUC – “The Armenian Genocide”

Sunday, July 26 – Fish Fry Supper, hosted by EUC at the Lion’s Hall

Tuesday, July 28 – 12 noon - Community Luncheon at PUC

Sunday, August 2 – Portland United Church Cemetery Memorial Service at 3 p.m. (across from Rideau Centennial School)

Sunday, August 2 – Ecumenical Worship Celebration – 7 p.m. at Hanna Park, Portland followed by refreshments at Portland Community Hall.

Saturday, August 8, 7 p.m. - The Big Phat Horn Band Concert at Elgin UC

Tickets available at Elgin Home Furnishings, PUC office and EUC. \$20 each (Students \$10)

Saturday, August 22 – BBQ lunch and Scrabble Tournament at PUC (planning in the works)

Tuesday, August 25 – 12 noon - Community Luncheon at PUC

Sunday, September 6 – Beef BBQ at Elgin Lions Hall hosted by Elgin United Church

The very best BBQ Roast Beef, Baked Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, local Tomatoes and Cucumbers plus Home-made Desserts. For info closer to the date contact the church office at (613) 272-2002 or EPUC@kingston.net.

PUZZLE PAGE

Books of the New Testament

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

Acts	John	Philippians
Colossians	Jude	Revelation
Corinthians	Luke	Romans
Ephesians	Mark	Thessalonians
Galatians	Matthew	Timothy
Hebrews	Peter	Titus
James	Philemon	

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Our Newsletters are also available and accessible on our web site: www.eppc-ucc.ca (go to "ABOUT" and then click on "Newsletters"). We do like to keep in touch but if you would rather not receive a paper copy, please contact the pastoral charge office and leave a message – phone 613-272-2002 or email epuc@kingston.net