

The Messenger

Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church

Minister's reflection

September 2014

**He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how-
Mark 4: 26 – 27**

As we head back to school and work, as summer comes to an end, one of the exciting things we have to look forward to at MHP is our harvest. So far this summer we have harvested over eighty pounds of lettuce and the tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and eggplants are still around the corner. Not to mention the corn, the sunflowers ...

It is amazing how even as the church was often so quiet things kept on growing. I am sure that just like the garden that has been the case with you this summer. As the kids show up at VBS this week, I realize how some of them have grown a lot and I am wondering about the rest of you? What has been going on in your lives during this time? What is new with you? What are the joys and concerns the summer has brought forth?

Here at MHP some of our news has included the key ceremony for the habitat for humanity home that we helped build just north of Runnymede and St Clair. The Costa family is now able to move in and we are glad to have been part of making that home. And now this week we are in the midst of VBS and the fun and laughter and friendships that come with that.

Last week we had a funeral for Marion Holroyd, a long time member of God's church and MHP. In many ways it was a celebration of the life that God gives and the power of the resurrection, the hope that we have in our living even when we grieve. As we repeated the funeral prayers I was touched by the lines that speak of our thanks for the goodness that entered the world through Marion, and the way that her life touches ours. This is the line that often stays with me after funerals that I sometimes reflect on as I think of my own life and ours as a congregation. As we give thanks to God for the gift of life itself. What is the goodness that enters the world through us and how does our life make a difference to those whose lives we touch?

I'm looking very forward to gathering again in September, and ushering in the fall. This month's newsletter is to bring you up to date, so you can plan to be part of it.

See you soon!

Blessings,
Karen

THE LAWN BARBECUE IS COMING!

Please join us on September 7, 2014, after church from noon - 2pm. for the annual Lawn Barbecue. Let's celebrate a new season and the bounty of our garden as we reconnect after the summer and anticipate an exciting year ahead. Tickets will not be sold this year, and instead we will set out a basket for donations to offset food costs. There are other ways you can contribute too. If you would like to bring a dessert or salad, or would like to help with setup, cooking, or clean up, please speak to John-Peter Smit (johnpetersmit@gmail.com) or Lauren Matheson (inan@coldsnap.ca). We are also looking for one more barbecue to borrow too.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School wraps up on August 31. Many thanks go to Tori S, Kim O, Carolynne C, Michael and Michelle K, Tristan G, Trish G and Alison W for helping out and leading the classes this summer. September 7th we return to our regular graded classrooms. There will be three this year in addition to the nursery: the junior class for Children ages 3 – grade 1, the intermediate class for grades 2 – 5 and the senior class for grades 6 – 8. Our high school class will be meeting beginning at a later date in the fall. On September 7th we will also be commissioning and praying for our Church School teachers for this year and giving out the grade six Bibles to those children who are entering the senior Sunday School class. See you then.

AN INVITATION FROM DOROTHY EATON

Dorothy is planning a garage/yard sale, offering the proceeds to the church and asking for some help in terms of donations and home baking to stock it. If you have things to drop off or can help on the day with set up and other details please speak to Rev Karen. Here is the letter from Dorothy below

Greetings Friends,

You are invited to participate in a sale to raise money for our beloved Church. The date is to be Saturday September 6th and the location will be on my patio at 93 Lavinia (Rear) at the south end of Swansea Town Hall Parking Lot. There are all sorts of ways you can help, including your suggestions to make it a success. Of course donations are needed e.g. new or nearly new clothing, jewellery or anything else suitable for sale. The star of the show will be the lovely home baking. Please call Dorothy Eaton at 416-763-0567 or see me at Church, and let's meet soon to start preparing.

Dorothy Eaton

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

Over the summer the platform supporting it has changed and it has been reworked. Thanks to Marc D our webmaster and his crew of helpers, Ed L, Lauren M, Kevin C, Hugh D and Marc K.

EMAIL CHANGES

Email addresses for the church are also changing.

The bellnet that you are used to using will be operating for a little while longer but we are moving to Karen@morningsidehighpark.com or minister@morningsidehighpark.com for the minister and office@morningsidehighpark.com for Laurel our office manager.

THE GUESS-HOW-MUCH-PRODUCE-WE-HAVE-GROWN-THIS-YEAR CONTEST

To get you started its more than 40kg because we have already harvested that in lettuce alone. I wonder how much it will be by the time Thanksgiving rolls around.

Every week when we harvest in the garden we weight the produce and we would love to hear your guesses about how much we might end up with. If you want to make a guess and enter the context there will be a guessing box and papers to fill out in the narthex and fellowship hall beginning September 7th. The harvest itself is split three ways. Tuesday mornings harvest is given to the volunteers who tend the garden, Thursdays goes to Evangel Hall where it is served to the community there and sometimes to other food banks or street missions as well, and Sundays harvest is shared with you the congregation at MHP. Thanks for your support and please submit your guesses! Ask Gina about the prizes.

FOR VOLUNTEERS AT MHP

I signed up and I don't remember when I am on duty? ...

I signed up and now I need to switch my date ...

We have lots of great volunteers at MHP and sometimes we hear these questions. To make things easier for you, beginning September 7th we will be posting the schedules for Sunday School, reading, ushering and fellowship hour on the bulletin board just outside the entrance to the fellowship hall.

FINANCE AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

And speaking of volunteers, after our custodian left last spring we have been very blessed by the efforts of many volunteers who have kept the building and grounds so well during the vacancy in this position. Thank you so much for the cleaning and yard work that has made such a difference as we have worshipped and hosted summer camps. A very special thanks to our property manager Peter who keeps it all co-ordinated and going. The team is looking to hire a new custodian as the fall approaches.

YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION

Since our annual congregational meeting in March, much has been done to further our plans for youth ministry at MHP. In addition to some contributions from the operating budget we have also received a grant of seed money from the presbytery and have developed a job description and begun advertising among students at Knox College and the Toronto School of Theology. The search committee for this position consists of Kate McClure, Alison Williams, Tori Smit, Olivia Dunn and Rev. Karen. The job description can be found on our website!

BIBLE STUDY AT MHP

Discovering the Bible Together, Thursday mornings at ten thirty beginning on September 11th.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE STARTING UP AGAIN THIS FALL

Mon Sept 22 -The Name of the Rose at Annette's

Mon Oct 27 - The Taliban Cricket Club at Myrette's

WORSHIP INVITATION

Do you play a musical instrument and think you might like to join a pick up group, to jam with other musicians in the congregation and play in worship occasionally? Please speak to Dorothy and stay tuned for practice times to be announced.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Saturday October 18th 9 am to 2 pm, in collaboration with the Justice Ministries department of the PCC we will be hosting a conference on climate change. Congregations from across the GTA are invited to come and learn and share together as we seek to care for God's creation.

November 2nd – 3rd – 125th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend: stay tuned for details. We will be having a celebratory meal with entertainment on the Saturday night and enjoying our guest preacher the Rev. Clyde Ervine on Sunday morning. I'm looking forward to welcoming back old friends and members of our community.

FROM PWS & D (Presbyterian World service and Development, the mission arm the Presbyterian Church in Canada) *Respond with PWS&D – Be a Peacemaker*

God calls us to be peacemakers in [Matthew 5:9](#). Today, in South Sudan, Iraq, Gaza and Syria almost 18 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. They are experiencing displacement, hunger and unthinkable trauma. PWS&D has committed \$50,000 to help supply food, clean water, shelter, health care and counselling to innocent civilians affected by these four conflict situations. Please respond by contributing generously and praying faithfully.

You can make a donation *online, through your church, by mailing a cheque to the PWS&D office, or*

calling us at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291. Please mark your donation "**Be a Peacemaker.**" Visit WeRespond.ca/Be-a-Peacemaker for more information.

Break Our Hearts

A Prayer for the world, by Christine Sine,

posted by Canadian Foodgrains Bank from Godspace

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7*

God pierce our hearts with your love,
Break them open into greater capacity,
Break them open,
That we might hold more of the world's suffering and joy,
That we might share more of the world's despair and hope.
Lord break our hearts,
As we stand in the gap between what is and what could be,
Break our hearts open
To a largeness that holds the possibility of a better future for all the world's people