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“Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, [Jesus] said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’” Mark 6:31

Now that school has started again and things are picking up at the church with our exciting fall calendar, I can see the relaxation of summer slipping away. Is it possible to bring summer with us, in spirit, if not in temperature? God created the sabbath for just such an opportunity. Life is very busy for many of us. So busy, in fact, that like the disciples in Mark 6, we don’t even have a chance to eat. If we adopt the practice of sabbath-keeping, we can have a vacation-moment once a week to keep us refreshed.



In her book *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*, Marva Dawn explains the benefits of setting aside one day each week to rest and be with God. She takes her sabbath from Saturday bedtime to Sunday bedtime. She sleeps better on Saturday night knowing she is not working on Sunday. She starts her day on Sunday in worship at church and spends the rest of the day doing things that she normally does not have time for, like having friends over for dinner or going on a long walk in the woods. She says that keeping this sabbath-practice gives her the endurance to finish each work week strongly, and sends her into each new week refreshed and invigorated. Spending this one day set aside with God gives her the rest she needs to sustain her very busy work life.

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Have you considered keeping a sabbath? Just as Jesus invited the disciples to come away with him by themselves to rest, so Jesus is inviting us to do the same. As we gear up for the fall and settle into new routines, I encourage you to find space to keep a sabbath. I encourage you to try sabbath-keeping from Saturday bedtime to Sunday bedtime. I encourage you to find a consistent time of the week when you cease from work to rest in God's presence.

Blessings in Christ,
Rev. Sarina

Coming Events

Youth Confirmation class starts October 14th

Board Brunch October 21st

Harry Kuntz's fall series on the book of Job, "Questions about Life" starting October 28th

Fall cleanup, end of October (the falling leaves will tell us the date)

Treasure Hunt Fall Festival, November 3rd at 9am to noon

Operation Christmas Child Boxes due back November 11th

Budget meeting, Saturday November 24th

Coats for Kids and International students November 25th

Bake & Preserves fundraiser by the Board, December 1 at 9am to noon

Drop & Shop December 21st 4pm to 9pm



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Vacation Bible Camp 2018

Thank you so much for your support of Briarwood's 2018 Vacation Bible Camp. This year's theme was Shipwrecked, but the camp was anything but! Dynamic activities and new structure led to one of the best, most smoothly executed camps we have had to date.



Because of the generous support we received, we were able to expand our camp this year to reach more than 30 children and youth, many of whom came to us from the wider community.

This represented a sizeable increase over last year, particularly in the area of youth involvement. These youth led the campers and supported the morning and afternoon station leaders while growing in faith and leadership.

We were so grateful this year to welcome a Volunteer Co-Ordinator to assist in recruiting and preparing volunteers from the congregation, and did we ever need it! We implemented a brand new afternoon format for our camp this year, offering three one hour-long “ateliers” each afternoon. Children and youth had the chance to choose an activity from such amazing offerings as karate, baking, soccer and basketball, among others, at which to spend a portion of their afternoon.

Along with the volunteers who ran these ateliers we had: a team of volunteers run our morning station rotations, a team providing support for children with special needs, volunteers providing supervision for morning registration and afternoon sign out, and a team providing extra camp supplies and snack foods for our daily camp- wide snack. We also had a wonderful team of volunteers to decorate the church building for the week, and another team of volunteers help to tidy up the church after- in particular

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the Children and Youth Director's office that was looking more like a shipwreck than a workspace!

We also had a very generous team of volunteers from the congregation raise funds so that the EcoMuseum (a local wildlife reserve) could bring in a selection of their reptiles and amphibians for us. This was a highlight for the children, youth and volunteers- that afternoon had the highest registration numbers, and filled up with volunteers very quickly! Thank you, fundraisers!



We closed off our camp with VBC Sunday, celebrating and thanking the Lord for his manifold blessings during the week. It's such wonderful addition to VBC, an opportunity to invite new friends and families to our church and a great chance for the kids to show off some of the cool music they learned during the week. Thank you

all- we can't wait to continue the momentum next year with the exciting VBC theme: ROAR!

Stevie Thriepland

Financial Report

Through August, Briarwood has a better surplus than budgeted due to a lower rate of expenditure. Our General Fund offerings are right on budget and we are \$800 over our Presbyterians Sharing undertaking. The challenge, for each of us, for the balance of the year, is to maintain or improve the offerings level in order to preserve this surplus and to be in a position to fund all of our critical programs in 2019. Thank you for your financial support and I look forward to presenting a balanced 2019 budget before the end of the year.

Ross Brydon

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Our Ever Growing Link With Chez Doris



For two years, twelve loyal, dependable bakers have been making muffins for Chez Doris every month. Everyone would be delighted if more bakers would volunteer to join the ranks. Any takers? Please speak to Jim.

This spring, Chez Doris was receiving many female refugees who had walked over the Quebec border. Some had no husbands, many had children and none had anything more than one suitcase.

Chez Doris asked Briarwood if we could help with clothing. We did! In spades. Then Marina Boulos Winton, the Executive Director, made appeals on TV and radio for clothing which were met with amazing generosity. The flood of clothing overwhelmed their limited storage space so we were asked to hold any Fall and Winter clothing until later.

The refugees were mostly living in small unfurnished apartments, so the next appeal was for basic furniture and household essentials, such as linen, blankets, cutlery, plates and furniture such as beds and chairs. Again Briarwood came to the rescue.

We take everything except furniture down to Chez Doris. If we avoid the rush hour and the weekend, the drive is easy. Chez Doris has a van and a volunteer has a truck, so they are able to come to the West Island for furniture. They have been out here about six times so far.

They have nowhere to store furniture, so each donation has to be matched with a lady in need and delivered straight to her. Chez Doris does this coordination. If you have any furniture to offer please speak to Nancy Wojciechowski or Jim Murray and they will contact Chez Doris to start to match the gift with the need and they will give you a time for all pick ups.



Image: phil.ca

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Now they need winter clothing. This has been an amazing outreach experience. From little muffins great oak trees grow.



It Was My Privilege

This spring I had the privilege of going to a local elementary school- on behalf of the Outreach Committee-to pay off the registration and lunchtime supervision fees for two refugee families who were unable to pay.

A few days later, I received a call from the mother of one of the families (the school must have given her my number).

I did not get everything, she had a very thick accent, but what came through was very moving. She is a single mother from Nigeria who has recently settled on the West Island. Amid tears of gratitude, I also understood "God bless you".

I told her that the donation came from our church.

What astounded me was that so small an amount could have such an impact. Her share of the donation was \$53, to close off her kids fees for the year. What a blessing to have this brief contact with her.

I want to thank those who donated and to take the opportunity to encourage the Outreach Committee. Your work is glorifying God.

What a privilege it was to witness this.

Nancy Goodfellow



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A Fond Farewell



Two families recently left us for Toronto. The Browns, Dr Rea and Kathy, have gone to live closer to their daughters. The Browns were Briarwood members for many years and those of us who were ever patients in the Montreal General will remember Rea's many acts of kindness.



The Cook family have moved to Oakville, the result of a business promotion for Trevor. In their few years at Briarwood following their move from New Brunswick, Trevor and Jennifer have been very active in our church life and Alexa, Benjamin and Charlie have

brought huge energy to the church school. We are sorry to see them go. Our loss is Oakville's gain. We wish the Browns and the Cooks every blessing.

Garden Blitz?

Where did the Garden Blitzes go? We didn't have any this summer thanks to Kathy Anderson and Cheryl Steer, who put down mulch in the spring which has kept the weeds at bay.

When mulching, Kathy's back was bad and who came along but Slava and Kateryna Adamchuk. They had brought their son and daughter to the Junior Youth Group so, while waiting for them, they mulched! A lovely story.

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General Assembly 2018 and LGBTQI

GA was held in Waterloo, in June. The new Moderator, Rev David Cho, is the son of Korean immigrants. Growing up he faced the difficulties of an ethnic minority, and felt marginalized and devalued. He hoped that all at the Assembly would listen to, learn from and truly see one another.

The Assembly voted to write to the Government expressing concern for many predictable causes: eg genetic technologies, victims of forced labour, decriminalizing abortion in Nicaragua, the Rohingya, Mali and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Our Moira Robson attended this year's Assembly as a Commissioner and recommends the talk on mission given by Dr George Sabra. You can find this at <http://presbyterian.ca/the-cutting-edge-of-mission>.

Discussions on same sex sexuality dominated the Assembly. The current stance of the PCC is to welcome anyone who professes faith in Christ as a Member of the church (this includes baptism for adults and children). However, Ministers may not consecrate same sex marriage. LGBTQI individuals may be ordained if they remain celibate. At the Assembly there was support for same sex marriage and full ordination rights for LGBTQI individuals and conversely for no change in the current polity.

A visitor from the Mennonite church reported that after seven years discussion, they had made no changes to their confessional standards but had allowed individual churches to make their own decisions on same sex relationships.

After sometimes passionate discussion on the questions "What do you hope for in the discussions on sexuality in the PCC" and "What else do you need to know to make a decision on human sexuality" the Assembly came to no conclusion but asked a committee of the last twelve Moderators to answer these questions for them and to make a recommendation, hopefully at next year's Assembly.



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The Things That Happened

Before he retired, Don McLennon was in the transportation business, where he owned a small company specializing in vehicle deliveries.



For the Snowbirds his company drove cars to Florida and brought them back in the spring, but he also arranged the delivery of heavy trucks or unusual vehicles such as Fire trucks and Mobile cranes. With Don in charge everything ran like clockwork, but there were occasional moments of alarm or laughter.

Don did a lot for the Expos players, bringing their cars north after spring training. One of his drivers returned to the office having brought a rookie's car from Georgia. Don asked him if he had had any problems at the Border. The driver, a Latin American, said "No" and then went on to tell Don that the rookie had had a gun in the car, but that this had not been a problem as "I just stuck it into my pants and said nothing" (Presumably this is what you do in Latin America)

On another trip, a senior lady returning here from Florida, handed over her car and the documents, explaining that her late husband's ashes were in the back seat. At the Border the driver, somewhat flippantly told the humourless Customs Officer that he had someone in the back seat. In the darkness this lead to much confusion, misunderstanding and delay!

One Sunday afternoon in spring, Don received a call from his driver who was in jail in Idaho. He had been driving a new Fire Truck to a demonstration trip in West Coast cities. Following the manufacturer's instructions, he drove the heavy vehicle through Idaho, but in violation of the Spring Thaw rules. Don says his annual fee for the AMEX card was worth it and he paid the \$3,600 penalty and got his driver released. Everyone but the manufacturer, who had planned the route, was happy.

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A driver once picked up a Mobile Crane in Austin, Texas where it was assembled. He drove to Windsor, entered Canada and was approaching Baie Comeau when Don received a call from Austin telling him that they had installed the wrong crane on the wrong truck and that it had to be returned to Austin.

One winter, Don had arranged the delivery of a truck from the West to Montreal and at the same time had arranged the delivery of a truck from here to the West. Their paths crossed in Saskatchewan in a blinding blizzard and both ended up in the same snow filled median. Twenty four hours later they were pulled out – with huge damage to Don's profit on the move.

Somehow, these things didn't seem so amusing at the time!



Sheila and Cindy at the
Fall fair on September 9th



While moving house, Sarina kicked a box and broke her little toe.

She had done this once before, so with this experience, she taped her toe to the next one. It worked last time but not this time. So after five weeks she has now been ordered into a boot. Keep your distance!

Das Boot

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A Note from Captain Claire



When I look back over the past few years, it doesn't seem like that long ago that Marilyn Scott approached me at coffee hour and said she could tell I was a singer by the way I held my hymnbook. Before long, I was singing in not one but two choirs, playing duets with Rosemary Murray in her living room, and had joined a band. Music really does make community, and I was so blessed to be part of the Briarwood community during the year and a half I lived in Montreal.

A lot has happened since I moved back Toronto. I am now a captain with Porter Airlines, and serve on the board of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation, encouraging young women to consider careers in aviation and aerospace. I am attending St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and help lead the Generation XY+ bible study group there. I am also a part-time student at Knox College, working on a Master of Theological Studies degree. I was honoured to receive two awards in the 2017-2018 academic year: the William and Ada Major Prize for New Testament Introduction, and the Class of 1951 Prize for Preaching. To bring this little update full circle, I have been looking at music and the church community from a different perspective this summer, as I have been taking a fascinating course on the Psalms.

With thanks for your companionship on the way, and with hope that our paths will cross again soon,

Claire

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Home Sweet Home



Welcome to Beaconsfield, Sarina, Brett, Micah and Junia. They are pictured here in front of their Montrose Ave. home, right next to Montrose Park. The church's Micah fund of \$100,000.00 has been used to assist in the purchase. The family is enjoying their pool, and also getting used to the wildlife like skunks, squirrels, chipmunks, and raccoons which share the territory.

Thanks

To all who helped at the Fall Information Fair

To Liz Kirkland and Judy Pemberton for great services when Sarina was on vacation and to the elders who came in all summer at 7.30 am to put on the air conditioning.

To Cheryl Heuser, Nancy Beattie, Judy and Stevie Pemberton who have done an amazing job rearranging storage space for our Children and Youth activities.

To Chad Rabkin of Helping Hands, our unpaid, unofficial Janitor, always ready to lend us a helping hand.

To the Memorial Committee for the new bike rack.