



Riverside & Hyde Park Come Together

A new day has begun....

Riverside United Church and Hyde Park United Church have officially come together to worship as one.

Let's celebrate!

A final spiritual worship service was held at Hyde Park United church on September 26th. A tremendous and longstanding history of Ministry and Mission at Hyde Park was celebrated.

A wonderful Coming Together service was held at Riverside on October 3rd. Both **Mark Hunter** (Chair Riverside Council) and **Connie Zolotar** (Co-Chair Hyde Park Coun-

cil) exchanged greetings while **Marilyn Durham** presenting the Hyde Park Communion Cloth from 1931 to Riverside.

We are confident that together, we have the energy and spirit to make our Coming Together journey a success.



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Calendar

- *Mission Sunday & Lunch Oct 17*
- *Consecration Sunday Oct. 31*
- *Remembrance Day Observance Nov. 7*
- *Communion Dec. 5*

Reverend's Ruminations



For two days in September I had the pleasure of sharing a brief camping experience with great long-time friends. As we often do we set out on a walk. This day's trek was through the forest, home to many bird species, fungi, and quite a variety of ground foliage where the sun peeked through the forest canopy. We rounded a turn and before me lay the picture you see in this article - a pathway. I had been sharing with my friends the upcoming joining of our two congregations and of the journey that lay ahead for everyone. I stopped in my tracks and took in the sight of the pathway that lay before me. I have to say it was a most peaceful scene and feeling that came and dwelt inside of me as I continued to walk into this very photo.

I thought of Elijah, the prophet who had experienced the mountaintop and had demonstrated the power of Yahweh through many marvellous acts, but how quickly Elijah returned to the journey. More like it – he was on the run for harming the Queen's property in the course of these marvellous acts. In the wilder-

ness, besieged by fear, he fell faint beneath a broom tree praying, "It is enough, O Lord, take away my life." Yet, in time Elijah received the strength he needed to continue the journey. He was nourished by God. Despite trepidations, confidence was restored.

Isn't that how it is with much of life? We anticipate a crisis or a tough journey, and when we look back upon the difficult event in our lives we think, "Where did I ever find the wherewithal to get through that?"

I recall a day in fifth grade when a group of boys were pushing a piano down the hall for the music teacher. The boys decided to see how fast they could push the piano. Suddenly, the piano tipped over and landed on the foot of one of the boys. An onlooking teacher raced to the scene and in a brief surge of power and strength lifted the piano. Now, she couldn't have done that before or afterward. She found sufficient strength in the moment of crisis.

These stories remind me that we will be equipped with the strength, the wisdom, the courage to continue down the journey we are on. God will comfort us, nourish us in order that we extend com-



Introducing Rev. Barbara Clark

Peace of Christ be with you! I'm delighted to be part of Riverside United Church for the next few months. For those of you who don't know me... I was appointed by presbytery in October 2009 to serve the Hyde Park United Church congregation as they took their final steps towards closing their church and visioning for the future. This past year has been blessed work journeying with a congregation in worship and pastoral care as they said goodbye to their church building and began a new relationship with Riverside United.

When I began my work at Hyde Park last year I did not anticipate that the journey would lead me, personally, to Riverside; reminding me once again to keep open to God's Spirit because we never know what wonderful things God has in store for us! When both Hyde Park and Riverside congregations approved the Vision-Business Plan for the newly joined

congregation, it also included a time of transitional ministry for me at Riverside until the end of December 2010 and so I have the opportunity to walk a little further down the road with all of you.

During this time of transition, I'm looking forward to being part of the ministry team here and the potential for new collaborations. In the next three months I hope to be a companion on the journey, by being available for pastoral care, participating in worship, and helping us flourish as we become a new community in Christ's name.



Upcoming Events

UCW Luncheon & Card Party -
Fri. Nov. 5

Congregational Christmas Dinner-
Sat. Nov. 27

Choir Potluck & Military Whist-
Sat. Nov. 20



Amy
at the
Fun
Fair

View from the Parking Lot *by Sharanne MacDonald*

I enjoy being in the parking lot each Sunday morning. The physical part of assisting parking is merely a tool for a warm welcome to those arriving for Worship. Greeting familiar faces with a wave and a brief exchange makes the day begin on the right note for all, bringing everyone into the fold for another week.

It is always a moment of joy when I spot an unfamiliar face and inquire, "Have you worshipped with us before?" In a matter of seconds, information is exchanged – reasons for attendance, their history etc. Usually there is a member of Riverside ready to go in to the church at the same time. By coordinating introductions between the two parties, the folks can walk together into the church. The visitor is welcomed into our family- not alone or a stranger any longer.

Waving at the buses arriving with our Cherryhill family on board is something I

strive not to miss. Sometimes I receive a bus beep but I always see the passengers waving as they make their way along Riverside.

My heart sings as I watch those that walk to church each Sunday. Families, singles, couples, the Hunter family arriving in stages. It is a time reminiscent of the 1960's when more walked than drove.

From my sidewalk position, acknowledgement is received from those merely driving, walking running or biking by. They know Riverside's presence and one day they may come in and worship with us. I hope that they will feel welcomed.



THANK YOU NORMA AND AUDREY! Last spring, Norma Clare and Audrey Geiger, the editors of the Good News, decided to step down after 15 years of doing the newsletter. The Membership Committee wishes to thank them on behalf

of the congregation for all their work as they kept us informed about the people and events at Riverside. I am sure they would tell you it was a labour of love. They have left big shoes to fill!

WELL DONE!



Our Mission Statement

Riverside United Church is a diverse and inclusive Christian community. We are a mix of age and experience sharing our faith journey in a supportive and respectful environment, empowering us to be at work in the world.

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Please keep us informed!

NEW NAME, NEW LOOK

The newsletter has undergone a transformation. With a new look, a new format and a new name, **The Current** is looking towards the future. Over the coming months there will be changes as the new format is tweaked but still look for information about the happenings at Riverside, updates on the groups and activities that make Riverside a busy place and of course words of wisdom from our ministers.

The Membership Committee, which oversees the Newsletter committee, has been looking at format, size, content and compatibility with electronic media. We have

discussed issues such as cost and environmental concerns. Our goal is to produce a newsletter that will be available online for those who wish to receive it in that form as well as have print copies available. It will take a few months to get everything up to speed and we welcome your feedback.

Please contact Susan O'Hara (Membership Chair) or any member of the committee with any questions or comments.