



# OUR WEST SIDE STORY

## Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy

Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2011

1061 Pinecrest Road  
Ottawa, K2B 6B7  
613-726-1418  
www.owecc.org  
Email: office@owecc.org

## Ernie Cox: OWECC Benefit Concert



Ernie has performed at the *Ottawa Tulip Festival*, the *Perth Summer Festival*, the Gospel Tent at the *Ottawa Blues Festival*, the National Library Ottawa *Folk Festival*, the *Ottawa Summer Folk Festival*, the *Black Sheep Inn* with Ken Whiteley, and was opening act for blues singer Ray Bonnevillie at the *NAC's Fourth Stage*. Recently, Ernie returned to the *NAC Fourth Stage* for two sold-out concerts and played at Bluesfest this past summer.

graduated from Acadia University's Divinity College and settled outside of Ottawa with his family, to take a church in the small town of Winchester, where his reputation as a great preacher and performer began to build.

After a few years, he returned to Parkdale United as *Minister of Music*. By 1990, Ernie's accessible preaching and musical reputation were widely known, and he accepted an offer to lead his own church in Ottawa: *Fourth Baptist Church*.

Just a few years ago, Ernie retired from the ministry deciding to make his music accessible to everyone.

**Tickets for the evening's concert are available at the Chaplaincy office. Please call Elizabeth at 613 726-1418.**



**On Saturday, October 22nd at 8 p.m.**  
**OWECC will be hosting an evening with The Rev'd Ernie Cox, musician of Gospel piano and Blues, at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave.**  
**Ticket price will be \$25 each.**

Playing a mix of gospel & blues, the Rev'd. Ernie Cox has been winning fans all over the continent with his soulful voice and big piano chops—think Ray Charles meets Mose Allison. He has been performing Black Gospel music for many years, both in Ottawa and beyond. He was the opening act for the Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir at the *Montreal Jazz Festival*, and a featured guest artist at the Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir Christmas Celebration.

### Inside this issue:

Pastoral Care	2
Paint It Up! - Mural at Morrison Gardens	2
An Ecumenical Worship and Action .....	2
Life in and Around the Neighbourhoods	3
Chaplain's This and That	4

### Upcoming points of interest:

- \* **Ernie Cox Benefit Concert—Saturday, October 22nd, 8 p.m.**
- \* Neighbourhood Thanksgiving Celebrations
- \* **Visit to Kanata United Church—November 13th**

## Pastoral Care

For numerous reasons we have changed our focus from the 'Walk With Me' Mentoring Programme to a more traditional Pastoral Care model wherein people who are providing care in the communities we serve are encouraged to join with others in a supportive gathering at least once each month to review our quality of care, our accomplish-

ments and areas in which we need improvement.

If you have received training in Pastoral Care or participated in our Mentoring training programme, you are invited to join us in this new care-giving support group. Call Elizabeth at 613 726-1418.

These monthly sessions will help further the education for those offer-

ing Pastoral Care in the neighbourhoods or helping with the Food Banks and will provide the opportunity for mutual care, support and understanding.

"You make a living out of  
what you get.  
You make a life out of what  
you give."  
Sir Winston Churchill

## Paint It Up! - Morrison Gardens Portable Mural



In cooperation with the *Paint It Up!* project of the City of Ottawa, a grant of \$4,000 was received to enable youth from Morrison Gardens, under the tutelage of artist Adam Davidson, to produce the following

mural now located on the south wall of the Morrison Gardens Portable, owned by OWECC. This project took several weeks and the participating youth all received income at



the rate of \$10.50/hr from the City of Ottawa grant.

It is hoped that this colourful mural will discourage unwanted graffiti that had been appearing from time to time on this wall. The project was managed by House Coordinator Paul Howes and the funds were administered from the OWECC office.

We are grateful to Paul for the idea and to Adam for the ongoing work with the young people to visually enhance the Morrison Gardens Portable.

## An Ecumenical Worship and Action Guide on Poverty

The following are excerpts taken from "*Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty*", a publication of **Citizens for Public Justice**. *Living Justice* is a book for Christian faith communities trying to live out the justice mandate to love the stranger, the widow, and the orphan, and to seek just relations within society. It takes a fresh look at poverty with theological perspectives representative of various Christian traditions.

Recognizing the complexity of poverty and the various ways in which it impacts each and every one of us, *Living Justice* goes beyond material poverty and explores emotional, community, and spiritual poverty as well. Material poverty is understood as a lack of money, resources, housing, and/or livelihood, while emotional poverty is about personal brokenness, isolation, and/or vulnerability. Emotional poverty can be experienced by anyone, regardless of their social or economic condition. Community poverty, in turn, relates to situations of separation within society, division and a lack of cohesiveness among people living in close proximity to one another, and/or misunderstanding between members of society. Finally, spiritual poverty is understood as the separation of faith and action, personal fear and woundedness, broken relationships, distance from God, and an inability to see God's image in the face of others.

*Living Justice* is a learning guide that can be used at the discretion of the reader. The format is best suited to small group discussion over a period of weeks or months. It also contains elements that could be used in worship or for personal times of reflection. All of the materials in *Living Justice* are intended to invite prayerful contemplation and action in order to reduce the burden for those living in poverty, and ultimately to see that poverty is eliminated.

## Life In and Around the Neighbourhoods—Rob Campbell

Let's begin with a report about Summer Camping. **Family Camp** on July 11-15 was delightful this year. Weather was great and everyone loved the setting of Camp Bitobi. Don and Bev Guenther were the cooks again and we all hated to leave at the end. We had creative crafts for the children, an excellent lifeguard on beach duty and a great cooperative spirit amongst the camping families. It was a great holiday for everyone. Some 58 people were in attendance.

Similarly the **Adult Camp** in late August was a great hit. Some 18 adults spent 4 days August 29-September 1, at Camp Bitobi. Food was great and everyone felt refreshed by the holiday. The highlights were the sessions led by Bonnie Hunter on Self Care. Everyone attended and some are hoping for a monthly continuation of these sessions in one of our neighbourhoods, together with lunch as we try to increase the Adult Camp interest for next year. This camp was very delightful and much appreciated by those who attended.

The **Teen Canoe Trip** was also a spectacular success. Some 9 teens attended this year and their feedback afterwards was all very positive. Some of this year's campers are hoping to be on hand for next year! Conversation with parents confirms that this year was one of the most successful. It was a great trip with much positive feedback from campers and parents.

We have altered the format of core group at **Regina Towers**, making Tuesday morning a "Spiritual Beliefs and Values" group. This is an effort to not compete with more traditional church worship and study groups. If this change takes effect, we anticipate a growth in participation because the experience will include more diverse expression of beliefs and values influenced by other than just the Christian tradition. And if successful we antici-

pate transferring the experience to other neighbourhoods. The purpose of the group is to create a more inclusive and accepting community. Much social distress is fostered when there is suspicion of other groups whose beliefs are not understood or appreciated. This group is designed so we listen to each other in new ways in order to appreciate our diversity of beliefs without fear of judgement or correction. We also hope to explore how our beliefs affect our values and how we live our lives.

At **Regina Towers**, Verne Bruce has resumed Monday night suppers. The residents continue to appreciate this meal and several of them share in being servers each Monday. Also the social drop-in on Thursday has resumed with crocheting of mats for Haiti and knitting of cat blankets for the local animal shelter.



On Wednesday, a soup lunch is prepared by Alayne Crossman for the **Pinecrest Terrace** residents and volunteers who enjoy the fellowship. We are exploring together what form the core group will take for this session.

The **Community Garden Project at Foster Farm** was somewhat successful. Twelve plots were created and not all were tended by local residents. The watering was less than consistent and some of the planters have taken little or no produce from their plots. Several gardeners were very happy about the opportunity to grow and harvest the produce. Some evaluation will be necessary to determine our involvement with this project next

summer.

At **Morrison Gardens**, a new mural was installed at the end of September on the south wall of the portable situated in Lisa Park within the neighbourhood of Morrison Gardens. This project called "**Paint It Up!**" received \$4,000 from the city to enable several youth under the tutelage of a local artist to receive pay as they created a mural that we will now have to maintain in the days ahead. Hopefully the mural will serve to reduce the graffiti that would appear on this south wall.

We continue to hold the **Search Committee** in our hearts and minds as we together face the future. Let us continue to believe that this group will be successful in finding the right fit for a new chaplain with this important work we do together in the neighbourhoods we serve.



"The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years, but the one with the richest experiences."

*Unknown*

## Chaplain's This and That

### Lesson From a Life Lived- A Reflection on Jack Layton's Legacy.

*(The following is an edited version of an article written by Simon Lewchuk of 'Citizens for Public Justice'. I think it deserves a wider audience and is offered here for your consideration. - Rob)*

"Canadians have been deeply saddened by Jack Layton's untimely death. Here in Ottawa – like in so many other places around the country – we've witnessed an outpouring of grief and reflection over this loss. To be sure, Jack was human. Like you and me, he had his shortcomings. He was far from perfect. Many of us didn't agree with all that he said or did. But regardless of your politics or theology, I think we can all admire him for the positive, hopeful vision that he so adeptly articulated and promoted. Jack was *for* something. And, again, even if you don't agree with all the things he was for, we must admit that there was something likeable and contagious about his ability to inspire change.

"Radical imagination," writes Anthony Weston in his great little book, *How to Re-imagine the World: A Pocket Guide for Practical Visionaries*, "begins with a move beyond complaint and resistance, beyond reactive tinkering or hunkering down or cynical accommodation. *The first big move is to an alternative picture of how things could be instead*" [emphasis added].

Jack had such a picture, a vision of how things *could be*. What can we Canadians, particularly those of us who call ourselves followers of Jesus, ... learn from this? In a time when the Church is more often known for what it's *against* than what it's *for*, perhaps this can serve as a reminder of our calling to be a prophetic, hopeful voice in society. At a time when economic systems are failing, poverty continues to rise, and creation is increasingly jeopardized, we have the unique opportunity to offer hope and transformation. Weston continues: "Affirmative vision is crucial. Be emphatically, visibly, clear-headedly for something, and something that is worked out, widely compelling, and beautiful – not just against the problems or the powers-that-be of the moment".

Let's create a discourse of hope. Let's dream boldly and openly. Let's refuse to accept the status quo. Let's reflect on the particular ways in which God is speaking into our context and calling us to action. We can start wherever we find ourselves: in our lives, in our families, in our communities and in our churches. Let's focus on how we, enabled by God, can make a difference. Poverty can be reduced and eventually eliminated. Our environment can be renewed. These are the sorts of things we can be empathically for. Let's build a movement and bring society with us.

It seems fitting to close with this Franciscan Benediction, taken from CPJ's recently released worship resource on poverty, *Living Justice* (<http://www.cpj.ca/en/living-justice-gospel-response-poverty>):

*May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live from deep within our hearts. May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen."*

**"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world.**

All my very best,

Jack Layton"