

Wabash Fall 2022 Newsletter:

From The Minister...

Be Strong in the Lord

Be strong in the Lord, in the strength of his power.
Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

When it feels like hope is gone, be strong, be strong.
I will keep on, keepin' on and be strong in the Lord!

When I'm feeling hurt and pain, be strong, be strong.
You restore my joy again!
I'll be strong in you, Lord!

Grace & Peace to you, Dear Friends in Christ,

It was so great to see everyone out for the in-person services that we have now.

The above song, "Be Strong In The Lord" came from the VBS this summer. It is very comforting and powerful in this chaotic world of ours. It is true that God gives us strength at all stages of our lives.

Hopefully as you read this letter it is a bit cooler. We have had an extremely hot and humid summer. James Taylor writes a blog entitled "Fires and Floods Mark the New Normal". He talks about the forest fires in B.C. , northern Ontario, California and even in Siberia. In Australia half of the Great Barrier Reef has died from rising ocean temperatures. The facts do not lie—we certainly have climate change! In his concluding paragraph, he maintains we need to lower each person's energy use &/or lower the number of persons in the world. This is food for thought. The Bible tells us: "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

Our **new Moderator is Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne**. She is the first Indigenous woman elected to serve as moderator. Her installation was Aug. 7 at Canadian Memorial United in Vancouver. She begins her 3 year term as the Church is grappling with reports of unmarked graves at the site of former residential schools. Landsdowne said, "There is still much to do as a country and as a church when it comes to reconciliation."

Rev. Carmen's parents are retired fishers on the Pacific Coast "My parents played a huge role in my life and taught me my strong work ethic", she told Broadview magazine (formerly the United Church Observer Magazine"). The 47 year old lives in Vancouver with her partner and 2 children. She has been serving at the First United church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside where many are very poor and some are homeless. Former moderator, Rev. Stan McKay said, "she is the right person at the right time to be our leader. She is a good listener; is constantly learning and approaches life with humour—a God-given gift to us with everything happening in our world today". We feel very blessed that she will be our leader for the next 3 years.

(See details at united-church.ca or read Broadview magazine & the material posted at the back of the church).

Financially, our pastoral charge had a successful summer. Thank you to all who supported and organized the Bothwell BBQ on the Civic Holiday weekend. More than \$800.00 dollars was raised. I believe this is the best yet for the BBQ.! We really appreciate everyone's efforts and it will certainly help to pay the bills.

Some of the clergy in Bothwell met for breakfast with Merv & Elaine Jaques. They have moved now to London to be closer to family. We thank them for all their service to the community over the many years. It has indeed been a blessing to work with them over the past 20 years.

We have been so pleased to see the dedication of our Sunday School leaders & students at Wabash United. The Pony Express continues & now the children are also meeting in person on Sunday morning. What a blessing the parents, grand parents, teachers, and young people are to our church community! Thank you to Anne Patterson, Ruthie Reid, Nina Reid-Maroney & Karen Smith who make this happen – throughout the whole year!

Our worship team of Joyce Sinasac & Sharon Stevens have planned the **Anniversary Sunday** for **September 25**. Wanda Burse will be our guest speaker with LUEY (Let Us Entertain You) providing us with special music. Please spread the word & encourage friends & neighbours to join with us to celebrate. Special thanks to Connie Martin & Karen Smith & their committee who plan & provide for the lunch afterwards.

October 16th - Jim Stirling L.L.W.L. will be **Bothwell's anniversary** guest speaker, with the Bothwell Choir providing special music. Please join us in your sister church. Lunch will be provided after the service. Also your minister will be **honoured for 20 YEARS of service to the Wabash United** & Bothwell United churches. We do hope many of you can come to celebrate this happy occasion.

Let the words of Psalm 46 speak to you:

**God is our refuge and strength
Always present in time of trouble
God is our refuge and strength.**

**I will not fear 'tho the earth give way, and the mountains fall to the sea
Tho the waters may roar and the mountains may shake,
I know that God will take care of me.**

**God is our refuge and strength.
Our refuge and strength!**

Enjoy these late colourful fall days and – remember:

**God is always with us
and God is always for us.**

If you or your neighbour/friend would like a visit or a prayer, please don't hesitate to phone. My cell is 519-365-5511.

May God bless you & your dear ones.

Shalom, Annalee

