

news
@
westhill
May
June
2017



syn·er·gy
'sinərjē/sin-er-jee

(noun) ~ the extra energy that people create when they combine their efforts; a combined effect greater than the sum of any one person's separate efforts.

news@westhill is a bi-monthly supplement to our colourful new Synergy magazine ~ coming soon in Spring 2017!

Report from West Hill's Board Chair

I can't believe it's been 20 years! ... but it's true; the relationship between Gretta and West Hill is 20 years strong, so we celebrated in typical West Hill fashion on Sunday, April 2nd with an outstanding event that can only be described as WOW!!!! Thanks to the creative leadership of John DiPede and Deb Ellis, Gretta had the day off and was able to fully participate within the congregation in a service that recognized our 20 years of working together in the creation of our rich, vibrant and meaningful West Hill community.

The Crafty Ladies presented Gretta with a special handmade quilt of inspiration. John created a ribbon rack to which all service attendees were asked to tie a ribbon while thinking of their individual aspirations for Gretta and West Hill. Gretta was then presented with the colourful rack to take home. We enjoyed listening to testimonials of the impact of Gretta's leadership and the recognition of the depth and breadth of the activities of our community. Thanks to Scott and Babette who gave great musical tributes, and to John with his many "Dr. Seussisms" and quotes, which all helped to make the celebration so much fun. After the service, our wonderful Crafty Ladies delivered once again with a fine luncheon featuring their signature chili dishes (both meat and vegetarian) and a beautiful celebratory cake. I don't think we could have managed to fit another person downstairs for what became known as the GRETTATTUDE meal.

To be in a great relationship it has to work for both parties. From my perspective, the last 20 years of being together has been just that, GREAT. This relationship has been supportive, nurturing, and at times also challenging, but in my opinion the results speak for themselves. Together we have inspired each other to continue on the journey of growing in wisdom, living out the values that are centered on love, and accepting the challenges of making a difference in this world.

WOW, I wonder what the next 20 years of our individual and collective journeys will bring. Who knows, but what I do know is it's up to us to make it happen.

Randy Bowes

Mission & Service ~ Helping Refugees

Our gifts for Mission & Service help support refugees. This is a story of one of our partners. Since 2012 Jordan has received over 1.5 million refugees. Large numbers of Syrian and Iraqi refugees have sought safety in the country. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)-Jordan is part of the ongoing response to this crisis.

MECC-Jordan approaches aid to refugees through a lens of Christian moral duty and human dignity. Referring to them as guests rather than refugees, the council insists that everything that is given is of high quality. Just because the newcomers are vulnerable and in need does not mean they should receive only what's left over. Rather than giving food parcels and clothes, MECC provides vouchers so people can choose what they want based on their needs.

MECC-Jordan also helps local churches that are receiving refugees, such as Our Lady of Assumption parish in Amman. Father Boghos Nahabedian opened his church hall to recent refugees, an later, with the assistance of MECC and other organizations, helped them settle in the area. Social programs for adults and children are also offered to enhance a sense of community.

"Every prayer, thought, and donation is making a difference," says Wafa Gousous, Director of MECC's Jordan office. We are thankful for the ongoing work of the Middle East Council of Churches and its commitment to supporting refugees in Jordan.

Dorothy Hirheley

May 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Men's Spirituality Group - 7-9 PM	2 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM Board Meeting 7-9:30 PM	3	4 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	5 Book Study 7:30-9:30 PM	6
7 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon Visitors' & Travellers' Lunch	8	9 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	10	11 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	12	13
14 Mother's Day Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon	15 Men's Spirituality Group - 7-9 PM	16 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	17	18 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	19	20
21 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon West West Hill 4:30-6:30 PM	22 Victoria Day	23 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	24	25 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	26 Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon Dinner With Friends 5:30-7:00 PM	27 Ramadan Begins
28 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon	29 Men's Spirituality Group - 7-9 PM First Nations Study Group - 1:30-3:30 PM	30 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	31			

Aboriginal Month
Seniors' Month

June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon	2	3
4 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon Visitors' & Travellers' Lunch	5	6 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM Board Meeting 7-9:30 PM	7	8 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	9 Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon	10
11 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon	12 Wayne Crossley Memorial Golf Tournament	13 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	14	15 Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	16	17
18 Father's Day Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon West West Hill 4:30-6:30 PM	19	20 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	21 First Day of Summer National Aboriginal Day	22 Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	23 Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon	24
25 Sunday Service 10:30 AM to noon	26 Men's Spirituality Group - 7-9 PM First Nations Study Group - 1:30-3:30 PM	27 Labyrinth Walk 10:30 AM to noon Holiday Crafting 1-3 PM	28	29 Syn-the-sis (Women) 10:00 AM to noon Choir - 7:30-9:00 PM	30 Dinner With Friends 5:30-7:00 PM	

First Nations Study Group

~ Revised Petition from 2013 ~

Members of our study group will be meeting with local MPs to address the issues raised in this petition. We would like to invite members from WHU to join us in this venture.

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

Whereas the current Federal government reaffirmed the principle of a nation to nation treaty relationship between the indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of Canada; and

Whereas that relationship must be founded on equality rooted in reality and not just an expression of sentiment;

WE the undersigned residents and citizens of Canada, in recognition of our duties and responsibilities as treaty people, call upon the government to turn its good intentions into deeds and immediately correct the following injustices:

While the previous government in 2007 promised 25,000 indigenous owned homes within 10 years, fewer than 200 have been built even though Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada underspent by \$900 million what Parliament authorized in the 2015 to 2016 fiscal year.

As of October 31, 2016, there were 133 drinking water advisories in effect in 90 First Nations Communities across Canada, excluding British Columbia.

On Jan. 26th, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the child welfare services provided by the Canadian Government to 163,000 First Nations children and their families fail to meet the standard of government services available to all other children in Canada.

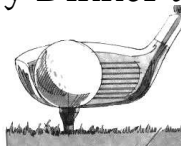
Suicides among First Nations youth (aged 15 to 24) are five to six times higher than for non-aboriginal youth in Canada. In July of 2016, the *Wapekeka* First Nation asked Health Canada for funding to thwart a youth suicide pact. Health Canada refused. On January 8, 2017, two children in the community took their own lives.

While Prime Minister Trudeau promised to lift the 2% cap on annual funding increases for First Nations programming on reserves, a report from the Canadian Press dated June 16, 2016 shows that this needed funding has not yet begun to flow. These funds are urgently needed for education, housing, water, health and social services on First Nations reserves and communities.

Ruth Gill

Wayne Crossley Memorial Golf Tournament

10:30 Shotgun, Monday, June 12
Winchester Golf Club, Whitby
Followed by Dinner at West Hill



TICKETS

\$90/person

Mel Crossley (wmcross@rogers.com)

Terry Repol (trepol@rogers.com)

Mother's Day Basket 3rd Annual Draw



TICKETS

One for \$5, Three for \$10
Draw Date ~ Mother's Day
Sunday, May 14th

West Hill United

A warm place to find yourself

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