



## April Newsletter 2025

### Our Mission

*We live as a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.*



### Chair of Council

Greetings! For the first time in many years, Alan Hons is not delivering this message as he has moved to the Past Chair position. There cannot be enough thanks to Alan for the service he provided to Melville as Chair of Council through some unusual times. Under his leadership, and the dedication of many others, Melville continued to be a busy and productive member of our larger community in addition to providing meaningful Sunday worship. And we are showing no signs of slowing down!

Looking to the future while celebrating the past appears to be the theme as I begin my time as Chair of Council. We are investigating heritage designation options for the building that will potentially open the door for grant funds to help keep our building safe for all who use it. We are working with other United Churches in the area to plan a celebration for the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary. We are thankful that the boiler heating system has seen us through another winter while investigating options to replace it and creating a plan to pay for that replacement.

We will keep you updated as we progress through these initiatives. In the meantime, please read on for other happenings and reports of life at Melville United Church.

Lara Johnston, Chair of Council

### Pastoral Care

Our committee is preparing Easter cards with a little treat to send to our folks on our list. Remember that

prayer shawls are available for anyone who needs one.

### Melville's UCW

Thank you, Lorri Wright for hosting the UCW winter meeting. Linda Porritt did the devotion based on "My Daily Minute", a 60 second inspiration from Norval United Church. This is an email devotion that several UCW members appreciate each day.

We discussed upcoming events: two requests for our sandwich lunch for birthday parties, one in the spring and one in the fall and a request for a funeral lunch. We discussed possible bake sales at the Fergus Street festivals starting with the Fiber Festival on May 31st and participation at the Strawberry Festival at Wellington Place June 21st by selling strawberry shortcake and dishes of strawberries. The Medieval Festival is July 26 - we have not had a bake sale at this festival yet.

We will offer to support the committee working on the June 8th celebration to be held at Melville for 100th anniversary of the United Church. The lunch will be catered. This service will include area United Churches.

We welcomed Helen Lecroix as the new treasurer and discussed how our funds can be used in the church. We continue to reach out to many customers outside of the church for strong sales of our turkey and beef meat pies.

We hope to continue to have Melville meat pies and Melville butter tarts at the upcoming garage and bake sales and to increase our customer list.

## Garage Bake and Plant Sales

The Fun Funds and Fellowship committee are holding a Garage, Bake and Plant Sale starting on Friday April 25th and Saturday April 26th from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. This sale will continue each Friday and Saturday throughout May.

PLEASE DONATE good articles of all sorts: small pieces of furniture, dishes, jewelry, antiques, clothes, kitchen wares, toys, books etc. etc. etc. We can take anything and everything in good/decent condition, "including the kitchen sink!"

Also, if you are a baker bring in baking on Thursdays or early Fridays or Saturdays and leave the baking in the upstairs kitchen. We will package the baking for you.

We will sell cut flowers and perennial plants. Donate if you are able, please.

We are able to pick up items (boxes of goods, or small furniture etc.) if you call us. Lorna 519-994-1939 or Marg 519-993-3274.

This is our main fundraising effort and with lots of donations we will make this a very successful sale!

## Kids' Church

Isaiah 26:3

*"Comfort, comfort my children, says your God"*

The sun shines every Sunday morning at the Melville Kids' Church.

The children run up the stairs and by the time I get there, they've hung up their coats and found their places at the table. Children hold nothing casually. They bounce up and down and get excited! I try to create a Sunday School that invites active challenges, crafts, storytelling and play, all melded into a learning

experience to help the kids tie the spiritual truth into their own lives. Active learning is a discovery process that helps them understand the truth as it unfolds. Sunday school becomes exciting, slightly unpredictable (chickens!) and relevant. It is a unique and memorable experience for me to plan each week and I look forward to each Sunday.

Yours in Christ

Ann Ward



## Social Justice & Outreach Team

Thank you for the abundant support we receive for the activities and involvements that we encourage. It is greatly appreciated!

We will continue to lead social justice themed services in 2025.

On Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, our speaker, Tracy Lee, gave an inspiring and educational presentation in support of Black History Month.

Apr 27<sup>th</sup>, we will raise up Mental Health Week, Community Gardens, and the CW Food Bank.

May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have an early kick-off to Pride Month, which occurs in June.

Sep 29<sup>th</sup>, we will honour Truth & Reconciliation Day.

Please check out our SJ&O table at the back of Sanctuary for information, handouts and upcoming activities. Special offering envelopes are also available there. See our bulletin board posts in the hall leading to the Parlour. Reach out to any team member to learn more about ways to become involved; on the team or for one particular cause.

Prepared by Jane O'Leary



## **Stewardship**

Melville continues to be a busy and vibrant meeting place for lots of people in our community. There are so many exciting happenings all the time. It seems, whenever we are in need, Melville Congregation rises to the occasion. If you attended the Annual Meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, you are aware of the need to replace the Heating System. The old boiler has served us well, but now is in need of replacement. This will be a major undertaking, but one that needs to be done.

Preliminary estimates are about \$140,000.00. The better news is that it can probably be completed in stages. However, it must be done as soon as possible. Stewardship has begun meeting to look into ways of achieving our goal. We are aware that there is grant money available, but this will only help with a portion of the expense. As we develop a program to pay the costs, we will keep you informed. We want you to know what is coming. Stay tuned for details.

Respectfully: Eleanor Johnston, Mary Lloyd, with support from Past Chair Allan Hons and Chair Lara Johnston.

## **Property**

We expect that Trillium Glass will return by approximately the end of March to re-install the repaired Stained-Glass Windows:

### Stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary

The interior sections of these two-medium sized (10'x14') windows, which face the parking lot and go up through the balcony floor, had bowed inwards considerably over the last number of years.

Trillium had taken these window sections to their shop in London to repair and re-lead the stained-glass joints. Thankfully, Melville has received a \$5,000 grant from the UP Fund (from the former Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council), which will cover approximately one third of the cost of this project.

## Boiler, Heating System

We are investigating options for the replacement of the boiler, since over the last couple of years there have been a few emergency repairs required. This will be a major undertaking, although we expect that new equipment can be installed in stages. Additional funding beyond our normal maintenance budget will be required for its completion. Thank you for your patience.

## Eavestrough Repairs

Early in March some of the massive ice accumulation at the eavestroughs on Tower St. fell and also took down the eavestroughs, downspouts and sections of the soffit. The damaged parts have now been replaced by a local contractor, Sideman.

## Rentals

The Centre Wellington Singers held a successful concert in Melville's Sanctuary on November 30.

We are continuing discussions with a local non-profit organization regarding a long-term daily rental, which remains fully on board with coming to Melville. They plan to use the Heritage Room for their Child Care Co-Op.

Regretfully, the Centre Wellington Mobile Market group left Melville in December. While at Melville, they prepared and distributed meals for needy families in the community. They have moved their operation to the Food Bank.

## Painting:

Thank you, Ralph, for painting the fireplace in the Parlour recently.

## **The Melville Heritage Ad hoc committee**

The Melville Heritage Ad hoc committee met on site with the Centre Wellington Heritage Committee to review and discuss the Heritage attributes of our church. This is an ongoing process which should take several months to complete. I would like to update everyone on the build next door and put some rumours to bed!

First the severance of the land and our new easement has been concluded fulfilling the first part of the contract of sale and triggering the clock on the next payment to be received from Van Grootheest Holding. Essentially, they are on the clock and a payment should be received in April.

Secondly there are rumours that the build has been changed to 5 stories. I can confirm that is not the case the site plan has not changed, and the new structure is still listed as 4 stories as per the Township of Centre Wellington.

Finally, I will be working with property and Van Grootheest on a construction and traffic plan once a building permit has been issued. We anticipate late spring or early summer.

Neil Dunsmore  
Chair Melville United Church Trustees

## **Worship**

April 6th – 5th Sunday in Lent. Pulpit Supply Rev. Jeff Hawkins

April 13th – Palm Sunday – Puppet Show presented by Kid's Church plus some Easter treats for the congregation

April 18th (Good Friday) 10:00 am with Pulpit Supply Rev. Tom Watson

following the service time of fellowship hosted by the Worship and Music Committee

April 20th – **Easter Sunday** – with Pulpit Supply Rev. Linda Butler

April 27th – Social Justice Committee will focus on Earth Day/ Community Garden/Food Bank – Led by Martha Duncan, Worship & Music Committee member

The Choir is busy preparing music for Easter services in April.



	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Budget</b>
	<b>Jan-24</b>	<b>Jan-25</b>	<b>Jan-25</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Givings	10,983.34	9,358.13	11,000.00
Fundraising/rental/other	3,419.10	6,297.10	3,625.00
Total Revenue	14,402.44	15,655.23	14,625.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staffing costs	9,558.61	8,406.72	11,304.50
Office/Facilities/Committees	6,121.70	9,740.63	7,333.75
Total Expenses	15,680.31	18,147.35	18,638.25
<b>Net Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>-1,277.87</b>	<b>-2,492.12</b>	<b>-4,013.25</b>

