

Ramblings from the Rev

I keep looking out my office window hoping that spring can't be far away and yet so many week-ends seem to be colder than I would like, in order to get out and play in the garden. As a gardener I noticed that the snowdrops have had to find their way through a thawing ground and it has been a struggle for them to herald the spring. As well, I have had very little time for gardening, either because it has been too cold or else I have been too busy.

But today, I sit at my office desk and notice the bright sunshine, hoping to complete these Ramblings quickly and get back into my garden after work, that is.

By now, it is old news that I have decided to retire as of the 1st of October, 2019. Initially I had thought I might continue to work to the end of the pastoral year, i.e. June 30, 2020 but with Linda retiring in May, I decided that four months after her retirement would be long enough with me getting up in the morning going to work and Linda sleeping in. (Ha! Ha!) And the upheaval around Robert's trial has also taken its share of emotional energy. Retiring after 36+ years of ministry will require some major re-defining as to who I/we are, however, we will meet the challenge as we have with other challenges through our years in ministry. There are still many unanswered questions as to my continued presence at Epworth but the M. & P. Committee are helping to discern my (our) future relationship with Epworth and the community of Kingsville.

On the **first Sunday of April** we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Baptism** and are pleased to have a candidate for that Occasion. There will also be baptism on Mother's Day, May 12, and if there are persons interested in Baptism, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

In looking forward to Holy Week, Epworth's Chancel choir will figure prominently in the commemoration of **Palm/Passion Sunday** with a choir cantata for 10:30 a.m. **Maundy Thursday** will be a celebration of the Lord's Supper and a traditional commemoration of servitude i.e. hand washing. The service will begin at **6:30 p.m.** and be completed by 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** with an early morning breakfast at Colasanti's beginning at 8 a.m. In order to attend the breakfast you will need to speak for a place and pay in advance, a total of \$13.00 per person. Easter morning will be a grand occasion with the

choir singing several anthems and all the familiar music of the season. We will also again celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

More and more of Epworth's parishioners now reside in care facilities and many no longer have driving licenses. If you can pick up someone in a care facility, who would like to come to Sunday worship, please take the initiative and do so.

Epworth's Church Board is bringing dynamic leadership to the congregation. We are indeed fortunate to have Bill Foliott as our new Board chair and we know that we are in good hands. Bill brings enthusiasm and experience as well as skill to leadership and we look forward to his influence in the present and future. What with the congregation beginning the process of finding a new minister, Bill's presence will enable the process to go more smoothly.

May 05th marks the eighth (8th) time that we will celebrate **Memorial Sunday**. Seventeen individuals who have been part of the congregation's life over the years will be remembered. Usually there is a luncheon to follow but because of major work in the kitchen and dining room there will only be coffee/tea/juice and sweets following service. Also **Silver Bells** of Windsor will be our guests at the morning service. Following coffee time a **bell concert** will be held in Memorial Hall. All are invited and a free will offering will be received.

In conclusion, as we continue our journey through Lent I invite you to participate in all of the events associated with Holy Week. May you be filled with Christ's spirit and encounter the Risen Christ along the journey.

Your servant,

John

Trustee's Report

March may have come in like a Lion but February came in like a Flood at Epworth. During the month of February, a hot water pipe froze and then burst in one of the rooms upstairs in Memorial Hall. This resulted in a flood, and water seeped down through the floor into the ceiling of the kitchen and small dining room. The contractor called in by the insurance company, discovered asbestos in the ceiling above the tiles. As a result, the asbestos will have to be abated and this is a very complicated process involving several weeks since the tile ceiling will first have to be removed. Once this process is complete, the kitchen will have to be restored. The entire process is expected to take three (3) months which means that the kitchen and small dining room will not be able to be used. Access to these areas will be restricted to only the workers since asbestos is very dangerous. It is an inconvenience that we will have to live with during this period. The whole process will be very expensive BUT due to the diligence of your Trustees, the whole process will be covered by insurance with the exception of the

deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me (Ken) and I will do everything that I can to answer your questions

Ken Womack
(519) 733-3723

Bus Trip

This year on **June 22nd** the Epworth United Church **Summer Day Trip** will be an Amish Family Christmas. The cost is \$179 per person. **Payment is due in full by May 1st 2019.** Make cheques payable to Epworth United Church. To sign up call Nancy Barlow 519-733-6435.



The tour includes: Motor Coach Transportation, shopping at Coyles Country Store, buffet lunch at the Walters Family Dinner Theatre and tickets to the show, Amish Family Christmas.

In this follow up production, a young Amish couple are expecting their first child near Christmas and many changes have occurred in the family. What new surprises are in store for the couple and their extended family? Enjoy this production, it's warmth and kindness featuring a beautiful new song Precious Angels.

ITINERARY

Pickup will be at 7:30 am at Epworth United church in Kingsville.

9:00 am – A morning coffee stop at Dutton Service Centre.

10:30 AM – Shopping at Coyles Country Store. A unique store in a beautiful country setting, Coyle's has an interesting blend of their own fresh roasted nuts, baking supplies and quality giftware.

12:15 pm – Enjoy a delicious hot buffet at noon hour with salads, meats, vegetables and dessert. The dinner is in the historic barn, which has been converted into a dining room and theatre that is air conditioned. There is also a gift shop and well-manicured grounds that surround the barn.

1:30 pm –the play Amish Family Christmas

After the play we will return home with a fast food stop enroute.

UCW SCHEDULE

APRIL 9, 2019 - Meeting at Southgate - 1:30

APRIL 25 – Set up for Rummage Sale – **volunteers needed for set up.**

APRIL 26, 2019 - Rummage Sale - 9:00 – 3:00

APRIL 27, 2019 - Rummage Sale - 9:00 – 11:00

APRIL 28, 2019 - UCW doing the Church Service - 10:30

MAY 14, 2019 - Meeting in Wesley Hall - 1:30

JUNE 11, 2019 Lunch at Kingsville Golf Course - 12:00

April 14th – Comedy Variety Show SPRING FLING – 2:00 pm - \$10 per person/\$25 per family call office 519-326-3138 or purchase at the door. Support persons for people with Special Needs free. Refreshments at intermission. All proceeds for GessTwood Church Camp. Epworth will be represented among the performers.

Friday April 26th 9:00 - 3:00 and on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 – 11:00 – Epworth Spring RUMMAGE SALE - Help is needed for the setup on Thursday April 25. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated.



The **COUNTY CLASSIC CHORALE** is presenting CANADIAN, EH? **Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 P.M. at the Leamington United Church.** They will also be doing a concert **on Sunday May 5 at the Harrow United Church.** Tickets can be purchase at the door or from Wharram's Jewellery, Thomson Pharmacy and from the singers, Judy Horrocks, Stan Sullivan, Sandy Buhler, and Stephanie de Luca.

SUMMARY OF EPWORTH SCHEDULE

April 13th Easter party for the children 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm

April 14th – Easter Cantata/Palm Sunday

April 18th – Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm

April 19th – Good Friday Breakfast 8:00 am at Colassanti's (must pay in advance)

April 19th – 10:30 am **Good Friday Service**

April 21st – Easter Sunday & Communion Sunday

April 26th 9:00 – 3:00 and April 27th 9:00 – 11:00 Epworth Rummage Sale

May 5th 2019– Annual **Memorial Sunday** Service, followed by performance by the **Silver Bells** and the **Epworth Bell Choir.**

June 22nd – Amish Family Christmas Day Trip

Dec. 8th - Christmas Cantata