

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CCSAC)

507 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1Z5

www.centretownchurches.org

NEWSLETTER



Summer/Fall 2016

SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES

CCSAC has been responsible for and involved in a number of social action and justice activities during the summer and fall months. In August, CCSAC, at the request of the Community Foundation of Ottawa, hosted a visit by Ugandan clergyman, Bishop Cannington Bahemuka who spoke one evening about how he has helped people in the part of Uganda terrorized by rebels. Under his leadership, his congregation was able to rebuild their communities, build new schools and churches. The message was very much one of self-help. On October 17, CCSAC supported the Citizens for Public Justice "Chew on This" campaign on Parliament Hill for the eradication of poverty in Canada. Other fall activities include the Annual Ecumenical Service for Social Justice, and fundraising for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

CCSAC ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

On October 2, CCSAC held its Annual Ecumenical Service for Social Justice at St. Peter and St. Paul's Anglican Church. Elizabeth Kent, CCSAC Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the service. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

Rev. Jared Driscoll led the congregation in the liturgy, and Rev. Michelle Terwilliger preached on social justice and abidance in Christ. She began by saying that many of us are part of a counter culture pursuing justice in a world obsessed with self-improvement and upward mobility. In Phillipians 2, we hear of Christ's self-sacrificing love which is the essence of downward mobility and stands in stark contrast to so many of today's values. We believe we are compelled to respond to Christ's death and resurrection by becoming more like Christ himself, not looking to our own interests, but to those of others.

This is a tall order, which makes many of us uncomfortable, and in doing so we risk becoming hardened or bitter or just plain exhausted. Jesus has a word for us who are at risk of losing our own peace and faith and that is "Abide, abide in me". The more we are rooted in Christ and his love for us, the more we are transformed into the people he's calling us to

be - people who put the interests of others ahead of our own. We love and feed our neighbours, not because we have to, but because of the love we received from Christ.

Music Director Lindsey Sikora accompanied the congregation on piano in the singing of the hymns. Fellowship with refreshments followed the service. The proceeds from the offering were in support of the Centretown Emergency food Centre.

CCSAC wishes to thank the clergy and staff of St. Paul and St. Peter's, as well as their CCSAC representatives, Erin and Brad, for their hospitality and for planning and hosting this year's Annual Ecumenical Service for Social Justice.

CCSAC FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES FOR CEFC

Upper Canada Playhouse

CCSAC was very generously given a number of tickets (18) by Morrisburg's Upper Canada Playhouse charity performance this past August. The proceeds from all the ticket sales enabled CCSAC to raise some funds for CEFC. Everyone who attended the play reported that they enjoyed it very much.

CCSAC Walk-a-thon

On October 16, CCSAC held its first Walkathon to raise money for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre, the success of which surpassed our best expectations by raising over \$13,000. Approximately 125 people participated in the Walk and there were over 400 donors/participants. The Walk was also an excellent ecumenical opportunity for members of Centretown churches to walk together in support of the Food Centre and to raise awareness of issues of poverty and hunger in Centretown.

During the registration for the Walk in the Jean Pigott Room of City Hall, people were entertained by the wonderful voices of the "Glebelles".

Event organizer Elizabeth Kent and CCSAC Chair Kristine Burr welcomed everyone to the Walk-a-thon. CEFC Coordinator Kerry Kaiser and Councillor for Somerset Ward Catherine McKenney officially launched the Walk by briefly speaking about the important role the Food Centre plays in our community.