



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

December 2018

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Co-secretaries: Anne Whitehurst
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Church of the Ascension

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St. Giles Presbyterian

St. John the Evangelist Anglican

St. Matthew's Anglican

St. Patrick's Basilica

St. Peter's Lutheran

St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic

Southminster United

Trinity Anglican

Our mission:

To unite Christians of all
denominations through
joint participation in social
projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Walk for the Centre 2018

On October 21, a sunny, but cold and windy Sunday afternoon, more than 150 people, along with some of their canine friends, enthusiastically participated in CCSAC's 3rd Walk-a-thon in support of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. The Walk raised not only much-needed funds for the Food Centre, but also an awareness of the need for food security for many of our fellow citizens in central Ottawa.

Participants first gathered at City Hall where the beautiful voices of the Aella Singers added to the festive air of the pre-walk registration gathering. Following a brief opening ceremony, pipers Donald Macdonald and David Roth led both groups of walkers out of City Hall and through Confederation Park on their way to Parliament Hill. One group walked down behind the Parliament buildings and along the Ottawa River and back up to and along Wellington Street returning to City Hall. Those choosing the shorter option walked up Elgin Street and around Parliament Hill and back to City Hall.

Thanks to the generosity of the 600 sponsors, the Walk raised over \$21,000 for the Food Centre. Our gratitude and thanks also extend to many others, without whose support the Walk would not have achieved the success that it did: Centretown Ward Councillor Catherine McKenney for reserving Jean Pigott Hall and for her ongoing support for CCSAC; Massine's Independent Groceries and McKeen Glebe Metro for their continued support; the marshals who stood in the cold wind along the walk; Elizabeth Kent and several other CCSAC members of the planning committee for their commitment and hard work; CCSAC's 23 member churches who helped promote the Walk; and of course the 150-plus walkers themselves whose enthusiasm failed to be dampened by the cold weather.

We have already started making plans for next year's Walk for the Centre, which will be held on October 6, 2019. Be sure to stay tuned!

You can view more pictures of this year's Walk, including the teams from CCSAC member churches, by visiting our website at centretownchurches.org.



Over 150 participants cross Laurier Street as they begin the Walk for the Centre.
Photo credit: Rob Burr.

Prayer Breakfast

"The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved." ~ Mother Teresa of Calcutta

On the morning of November 9, some thirty people from CCSAC's member churches gathered in a circle at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in the Glebe to pray and meditate on the theme of this year's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast: *Befriended, our Ministry of Belonging*.

In his homily, the Rector of our host church, the Rev. Gregor Sneddon, used the image of the Good Shepherd from the Gospel of St. Matthew to speak to the theme of the poverty of loneliness that exists in our midst. Even those who are unlike us, and whom we may even despise and judge, belong to the Good Shepherd. We are called into relationship with all in his flock. There are those among us who through loss, death, poverty, illness, addiction, old age find themselves alone, isolated from community and are without life affirming relationships.

One does not have to be living on the streets to experience the great poverty of loneliness and isolation. Any variety of means can isolate us, and we thus share with the homeless in the same brokenness of self identity and belonging. But the Good Shepherd tells us we belong and are beloved: mud, dirt, warts and all.

Following the homily, several CCSAC members introduced prayers for victims of poverty, for our faith communities, for our neighbours, and for our Ministry of Belonging. Each prayer was followed by five minutes of silent meditation and spontaneous open prayers.

The ecumenical spirit of the prayer breakfast continued during fellowship as clergy and representatives from CCSAC's members church chatted and intermingled with one another over coffee and home-baked goods.



Ecumenical Breakfast Participants (from left): Maureen Killoran, Rev. Gregor Sneddon, Marilyn Hamilton, Mary Mussell, Anne Whitehurst, Elizabeth Kent, and Yvonne Moses.

From the Food Centre

By Kerry Kaiser, CEFC Coordinator

This fall has been a very busy time for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre's staff and volunteers with an increase in the number of clients we served. In October we looked after a total of 852 people, compared to 774 last October. While there were other challenges, there were many positive notes as well.

One was the very successful Walk-a-thon that CCSAC organized for the Food Centre on October 21. Many of our volunteers joined CCSAC representatives, church members, family and friends to help make the 3rd Walk for the Centre a great success. We are most grateful.

One of our major undertakings this fall was the replacement of our aging and under-performing computers. After careful research, we chose PC Perfect in the Glebe to supply four computers: one new, three refurbished. One of our generous donors has agreed to pay for the computers. CCSAC has applied for donated software on our behalf, which will result in a considerable savings.

We are now turning our attention to Christmas, and as in the past, I will be providing the names of 50 families to Centretown United Church's Christmas hamper project. We also expect to be able to provide a choice of ham or gift certificates to almost all our single clients.

People often do not realize how much our clients want to give back. A former client showed up unexpectedly one day and wanted to donate some baked goods to the Food Centre. He told me he had really missed such goodies when he couldn't afford food. He now has a full-time job and shows up at the Food Centre before 7:30 three times a week with homemade baking. The clients love the treats, and his generosity gives our service that homey and welcoming feeling we encourage."

Upcoming Events

- **December 1 & 2:** Food Drive at McKean Metro Glebe.
- **December 4:** Thirteen Strings Christmas Candlelight, 7:30pm at Dominion Chalmers United Church with collection for the Food Centre.
- **December 5:** Advent Service and Potluck Lunch for CCSAC representatives and Food Centre at Centretown United Church.
- **December 5:** Cameron Highlanders Christmas Concert, 7:30 at St. Giles in benefit of Food Centre.