



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

June 2019

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr

Vice-chair: Elizabeth Kent

Co-secretaries: Anne Whitehurst
and Mary Mussell

Treasurer: Joe Courtright
Communications & Newsletter

Editor: John Pedersen

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament

Canadian Martyrs

Centretown United

Christ Church Cathedral

Church of the Ascension

Dominion-Chalmers United

Eglise unie St-Marc

First Baptist

Fourth Avenue Baptist

Glebe-St. James United

Knox Presbyterian

Quaker Ottawa Meeting

St. Andrew's Presbyterian

St. Barnabas Anglican

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!
Please feel free to e-mail us,
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CCSAC's Annual Meeting

On Wednesday April 3rd, CCSAC held its Annual General Meeting at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, 194 Fourth Avenue. Father Tim Nelligan welcomed 42 guests and representatives from member churches, and gave the opening prayer.

This year's guest speaker was Willard Metzger, newly-appointed Executive Director of Citizens for Public Justice. He provided an excellent overview of the recent federal Budget as regards to the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy. He encouraged all in attendance to continue faith-based work in support of social justice and poverty eradication for the 5.8 million Canadians living in poverty. Having more Canadians active in seeking and demanding government policies will help to bring about societal justice for all. You can read Willard Metzger's full address at www.centretownchurches.org/news.

Reports for 2018 were presented. In her annual update, CCSAC Chair Kristine Burr noted the important role CCSAC plays within the city as a voice of ecumenical cooperation, and signalled that one priority for 2019 will be to strengthen partnerships with other organizations working to improve the lives of those in need in Central Ottawa. She also reminded the audience that after a very successful walkathon in 2018, CCSAC will be leading a fourth "Walk for the Centre" this October 6th, and encouraged everyone to save the date.



(L to R) Elizabeth Kent, Vice-Chair; Mary Mussell, Co-Secretary; Willard Metzger, CPJ Executive Director; Kristine Burr, Chair; Joe Courtright, Treasurer; Anne Whitehurst, Co-Secretary at the CCSAC Annual General Meeting.

CCSAC Treasurer Joe Courtright's financial report reflected proceeds of \$21,600 from the 2018 walkathon and the continuing generosity of CCSAC donors. This enabled us to cover our 2018 expenses, leaving a small reserve going into 2019.

In her presentation, Kerry Kaiser, Centretown Emergency Food Centre Coordinator, spoke about its positive impact on diverse clients ranging from recent immigrants to rooming house tenants to single parents and their children.

Rev. Brent Stiller of St. Peter and St. Paul's Anglican Church offered prayers for the installation of CCSAC officers: Kristine Burr, Chair; Elizabeth Kent, Vice-Chair; Joe Courtright, Treasurer; Mary Mussell and Anne Whitehurst, Co-Secretaries; and John Pedersen, Communications. Pastor Jim Pot of Knox Presbyterian Church, gave the closing prayer and benediction.

From the Food Centre

Our Clientele is evolving: Although the Food Centre serves primarily a client- base of single males, our clientele is constantly evolving. Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in the number of families using our services, and thus a marked rise in the number of children each month. One of the main reasons for this is the recent expansion of temporary housing for refugees and new immigrants at the nearby YMCA. We are pleased to serve these families, some with up to 8 or 9 children, and to play a role in helping them adjust to life in their new country. The Y also has shelter programs for youth and single women, and we are pleased to serve them as well.

Meet our new Assistant: Following the resignation of Aidan Grapes in March, our Coordinator was able to hire Billy El-Cheikh, who had previous experience in the grocery business, as her Assistant. Billy has proved to be a real asset, and has established a good working relation with both staff and volunteers.

Our Summer Student: Erin James, a student in her final year of Carleton's BSW program, started her position as Summer Assistant on May 6. With support of our federal MP, Catherine McKenna, we received an HRDC grant to help pay her wages.

Our new local politicians visit: The Food Centre is fortunate to have had strong support from Somerset Ward Councillor Catherine McKinney since she first took office. Last fall the Food Centre welcomed a visit from Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa Centre, and on May 17, Shawn Menard, Capital Ward Councillor, visited our Food Centre. On both occasion, Coordinator Kerry Kaiser gave them a tour of the Centre and discussed the needs of our clients. Both expressed an interest in helping us. Such visits are encouraging and helpful to both parties.

Benefit Concert: We are very grateful to Silas Chinsen, a graduate music student and former member of Knox Presbyterian's choir, for donating the proceeds of his concert at Knox on April 7 to the Food Centre.



Silas Chinsen, classical guitarist and baritone offered a concert in support of Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On May 29, CCSAC held its Annual Volunteer Dinner at Centretown United Church to recognize and thank the many volunteers of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC). Over 50 people attended the Dinner and were treated to a lovely buffet meal provided by the United Church Women's Auxiliary of Centretown United Church.

At this year's Dinner, CEFC Chair Allison Dingle presented Susan Johnson with the *Betty Neelin Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service* in recognition of her wonderful commitment as the Food Centre's Treasurer for the past 20 years. Catherine Fortin, a Friday afternoon volunteer with a strong accounting background, has stepped forward to help.



At the CCSAC Volunteer Dinner (from Left): CEFC Coordinator Kerry Kaiser, CEFC Chair Allison Dingle, Susan Johnson, Betty Neelin, and Catherine Fortin.

4th annual

WALK FOR THE CENTRE

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, CCSAC will hold its fourth Walk-a-thon to raise funds for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. Come and join members and friends from CCSAC's 23 member churches at Ottawa City Hall for the Walk around Parliament Hill along the Ottawa River and Canal. All are welcome, including your canine friends. Learn more at centretownchurches.org/walk.

The Walk-a-thon Planning Committee is looking for volunteers to help on the day in several roles, including registration and marshals. Get in touch at contact@centretownchurches.org!