



LENNOXVILLE UNITED CHURCH

Service of Hope and Inspiration May 5, 2019

One hundred and ninety-nine single roses and 42 rose bud vases were purchased and dedicated to family members and friends lost to cancer or living with cancer by those who filled the pews at Lennoxville United Church on Sunday, May 5th, 2019. Many in attendance joined procession leaders Eric and Donna McKeage to the front of the Sanctuary where Nancy Suitor invited them to place their roses in the “Vase of Hope” to signify the coming together in love and support of those whose lives have been touched by cancer or any other devastating disease. Pink and yellow roses, placed in bud vases, decorated the Sanctuary and graced the tables in the Lower Scott Hall where, under the convenorship of Kristan McKercher refreshments were served after the Service. Several people added to the floral decorations by placing plants and bouquets of flowers in the Church in memory of their loved ones and Shirley Bassett kindly let us place the quilted runner made by her sister, Esther, on the piano. Most of the participants took home their roses and bud vases after the service and some were delivered to those who had been unable to attend the Service.



Kristan McKercher welcomed everyone to the Service of Hope and Inspiration and recounted how she and co-organizer Nancy Suitor had organized the first service 9 years ago as a means of familiarizing the community with what was then known as the UCW’s “Project Hope”. Evolving over time, bags, now referred to as “Comfort Bags” can be taken, free of charge, to any member of the community undergoing chemo and other lengthy treatments at a hospital or at home. Designed to ease often unpleasant procedures, the “Comfort Bags”, made by some of Margaret Young’s students and others, are made of cheerful materials which are often quilted in bright, attractive patterns by local quilters. Inside can be found necessities like toothbrushes and toothpaste, bottled water, tissues, lozenges and hand lotion, cozy items such as small pillows, lap robes, knitted hats etc., and small books, puzzle books and similar items to help pass the time. Kristan noted that there is a Comfort Bag displayed at the front of the Sanctuary as well as in the Lower Scott Hall which people were invited to

examine after the Service. With the restructuring of our Church from an Official Board to a Council, the Comfort Bag Project is now offered by the newly-created Outreach Team.



During this moving and meaningful service we were blessed to hear the wonderful musical selections and hymns rendered by the Lennoxville United Church Choir whose numbers were augmented by the amazing voices of the Bishop’s University Singers. We are thankful for our talented organist and choir director, Maryse Simard, the musical direction of Jamie Crook, beautiful piano renditions by Fannie Gaudette as well as the solos by Sonya Patenaude, Melinda Enns, J.D. Kent and Donna Julia Garcia.



Reverend Linda Buchanan’s “Time for the Young at Heart”, her sermon entitled “You will be Found” and the amazing combination of her spoken word, Jamie’s gentle singing and the accompaniment provided by Fannie Gaudette left many of us with tears in our eyes and comfort and love in our hearts. We then listened as the Hinds family: Robbie, Mandy, Maya and Ella recited the lovely prayer they recited every night of Maya’s cancer journey.



Nancy Suitor read a poem by Pat A. Fleming, entitled “My Credo of Life” which was followed by the Scripture reading given by Frankie Noble. The Leonard Family: Carolyn, Patricia, Dan and Vanessa very capably acted as ushers for the day.



Proceeds from the sale of flowers along with the many generous donations received will be shared between La Maison Aube Lumière, represented by its President of their Board of Directors, Mme Élisabeth Brière and our Robbie Hinds who, each year, participates in Leucan’s “Shaved Head Challenge” in Sherbrooke. We are grateful that, due to the support and participation of a Church full of family and friends the two organizations mentioned will each receive a cheque for \$1,000.00. Thank you for your part in that achievement.

The Service of Hope Organizing Committee:
Kristan McKercher, Nancy Sutor and Frankie Noble

Photos: Jack Noble

Text: Frankie Noble

2019-05-10

Published by: Bruce Durrant