



# CCSAC NEWSLETTER

## CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

October 2023

### Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr  
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun  
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell  
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun  
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston  
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

### 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. Teresa'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!  
507 Bank St.  
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5  
613-232-3059  
[Contact@centretownchurches.org](mailto:Contact@centretownchurches.org)  
[www.centretownchurches.org](http://www.centretownchurches.org)

## CCSAC's Annual General Meeting

There was a good turnout at the CCSAC AGM on September 13 at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church. Sahada Alolo, Manager of Community Engagement at Multifaith Housing Initiative, was the guest speaker. She presented a slide presentation of Multifaith Housing Initiative's current projects with a focus on Dream Lebreton Flats, Multifaith Housing Initiative's newest affordable housing development.



(l to r) Kristine Burr, Ariel Troster, Sahada Alolo

## Suppers at Southminster United Church

*A longer article by **Peter McCourt** was featured in the **October 2023 OSCAR***

Supper's on at Southminster United Church again this fall, with doors opening October 14, 2023, to welcome all to come in Out-of-the-Cold.

Started as a pilot project in 1998, Out-of-the-Cold offers conversation and companionship along with a free home-cooked meal in a safe and warm environment. Previous years have seen families, couples and singles, newcomers and neighbours gathered around the table. Coffee and tea and something sweet are on offer when doors open at 3 pm, with a three-course meal featuring hot chicken or beef to follow between 4 pm and 5 pm. A vegetarian option is always available.

Guest numbers were down overall last year from pre-COVID and pre-construction years at Southminster, although attendance increased gradually through the season..

Organizers are prepared for larger numbers this year and are asking Old Ottawa South to help get the word out to individuals and social networks to support those experiencing the pinch of high food costs and economic stress. The success of the program has always rested on its community support. Monetary support has largely come from individuals, Trinity Anglican and St. Matthew's Anglican and other churches in Ottawa, and businesses within Old Ottawa South or serving the community. The Clothes Secret has a long relationship with the program while Life of Pie serves up pie once a month.

Donations to Out of the Cold can be made at [www.southminsterunitedchurch.com](http://www.southminsterunitedchurch.com). Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Mel at [jamieson.melody@gmail.com](mailto:jamieson.melody@gmail.com).

## Advancing Reconciliation

*A longer article by P. Winkelaar and J. Stead first appeared in **Presbyterian Connections**.*

Knox Presbyterian Church has established a scholarship for an Indigenous medical student at the University of Ottawa as part of their church's work toward advancing the aims of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Dr. Peter Bryce Scholarship, administered by the University of Ottawa, is named after the doctor who spoke up about the abuses in residential schools when he was Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. The decision to name the scholarship after Dr. Peter Bryce was made following consultations with local and national Indigenous leadership as well as denominational contacts. Scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded annually to a full-time student in the Undergraduate Medical Education Program in the Faculty of Medicine, who can demonstrate financial need and meets the requirements of the University's Eligibility for Focused Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Donations to the scholarship can be made online through the University of Ottawa. Charitable tax receipts will be issued.

Other faith groups might be interested in this practical way to achieve a similar goal.

## A Report from Centre 507

We were pleased to welcome Richard LeBlanc, Executive Director of Centre 507, to our meeting on June 5. Centre 507 is located at 507 Bank Street, in Centretown United Church where it has been for 40 years. Richard has worked at the Centre for the last 15 years. The Centre is an adult drop-in with nutritious meals provided six days a week. About 350 people are served each day. Since the pandemic they have increased their hours and are now open evenings. Breakfast and lunch are served six days a week with dinner four evenings and food on Sunday available all day. In addition, Centre 507 has a busy Recreation Program and access to many community resources such as resume help and tax and legal assistance. For more information, please visit their website at <https://www.centre507.org/>



*Richard LeBlanc*

## The Good Companions Seniors' Centre

Nikkie Snagg, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator at The Good Companions Seniors' Centre (<https://thegoodcompanions.ca/>), was guest speaker at the October 2 meeting of CCSAC. The Centre, located at 670 Albert Street, offers a bright, airy meeting place where seniors from every walk of life can participate in a multitude of social activities and receive many services that enhance their quality of life. Ms. Snagg included topics such as Coffee Time, Rainbow Coffee Time, Senior's Centre Without Walls, Community Support Services, In-House Services, The Day Centre, Adult Day Program, Day Trips and Special Events. There are many volunteer opportunities as well. In particular, she mentioned the Santa for Seniors Project. This involves giving small gifts to seniors who are living on their own without much support and likely to be alone at Christmas. The Good Companions need people to deliver gifts to these isolated people. Please contact the Good Companions if you are interested in this wonderful volunteer opportunity!