

Welcome ...

Many people would consider their church a friendly and welcoming church. Here, at Caradoc Presbyterian Church, many of us would say that was true of our church. In small communities though we sometimes become too comfortable with one another at the expense of new comers. Our desire to care about each other lives and the lives of our families and generally spending time together can at times leave new comers on the side lines. So much so, that once and awhile, we need to make sure we are reminded to keep ourselves in check, open to new possibilities, new faces and friends. It is our job as a whole community to be welcoming and to work at including others in our community. It is also our job as a whole community to invite people to join our community, to be excited about events, activities and worship. In this New Year let's consider ways we can be a welcoming community and ideas of how to invite friends, family and neighbours to join us!

What does it take to be a welcoming congregation for all of God's Children?

■ Begin with prayer: pray for new people to come to our church,

pray

they will find а welcoming community, pray that God will guide you to opportunities to offer hospitality and to inspire you to greet others well with God's love and compassion. ■ Smile and speak words of welcome to everyone! ■ Be friendly and warm

to everyone no matter how someone looks, who they may appear to be or even how they are dressed, they should be welcomed wholeheartedly. ■ Be attentive to new people, your friends can catch up with you later! ■ Don't forget to introduce yourself

and provide information and invitation. For example: explain we do not use bulletins anymore and the parts of worship will appear on the screen however we do have an announcements sheet, "did you receive one?" or when worship ends invite new comers

to coffee.

Did you know the number one reason new comers arrive at worship in a church?

They were invited by a neighbour, friend or acquaintance.

Mark your calendars!

Caradoc Presbyterian Church Website

Note: On our updated website you can access the Welcome page and "recent announcements" __slides by clicking the arrow on the right or simply moving down the page. Updates and changes will continue to be made in the coming months.



Volunteering in our Community:

The VON Middlesex-Elgin are always looking for volunteers. You can help improve the physical and mental well being of others by giving one hour of your time each week as a SMART Exercise and Falls Prevention Instructor. (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together includes exercise tailored to a client's abilities and mobility) Or consider volunteering as a Transportation Volunteer for 3 hours a week to provide a client with vital access to medical appointments or necessary errands to stay independent in their home.

A Poem to consider:

"The Church: A Collection of Connections"

Here in this place we reenact and rehearse the story of a poetic, prophetic, priestly God.

In liturgy, in litany, in prayer, in psalm, in meal, in hymns we remember and call into the present the story in which we live and move and have our being.

Here we are woven into the wisdom story of many generations; we conspire with the Spirit towards a future garden for we are grounded in the names, dreams, signs and wonders of God's communal story and in this place, we become anguished poets storied prophets creative priest.

to each other and to a searching world.

Cherwien, Susan Palo, "Calling Into the Present" From Glory Into Glory: Reflections for Worship (Saint Louis: MorningStar Music Publishers, 2009), 337.



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