

Friday News from SouthWest

January 20, 2023

What Will You Leave Behind?



Yesterday, I finally brought out of storage and opened a box of albums which I have moved to and from at least 12 houses over the past 40 years or so. Opening this box was something I said I would do if and when I was in possession of a great sound system on which to really enjoy them. Truth be told, that sound system actually came with my husband in 1986 so I am unsure what has kept be from opening the box.

Going through the albums, now smelling of must and a little moisture worn around the edges of the covers, I was surprised to see just how old some of them are. There are several Beatles albums, a few more Rolling Stones, Simon and Garfunkle, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Band, Tina Turner, The Eagles.... all that good old stuff that, when you hear the songs, you can probably remember just where you were, what you were doing, what you were wearing and even what the weather may have been like. But there are albums which were even older; 78 RPM's like Nat King Cole, Vera Lynn, Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Louis Armstrong, The Ames Brothers, all of which hold the memories shared only by my father and mother.

Why do we hang on to things and when do we know its time to leave them behind?

Our Gospel reading from Matthew this week tells the story of Jesus choosing his disciples and two phrases stand out: ***At once they left their nets and followed him*** and then ***immediately, they left the boat and their father and followed him.***

SouthWest now worships in a different sanctuary. The decision to move was not taken lightly and, I know that the decision of what to take and what to leave behind was even harder.

Happy memories feed the soul and warm the heart. We need to wrap them around us in the colder moments of life when we are lost and the path forward is uncertain.

But, if Jesus were to call you today, or tomorrow, would you be able to let go of your fishing or safety nets, your family, your boat and your life as you know it?

There is no easy answer to that question. I have moved 14 times since 1969 yet, still, I have carried the rag-tag box of memories from place to place. In fact, in that box I found Paul Simon's album Still Crazy After All These Years and the song Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover.

Paul Simon makes it sound so easy but the truth is, following Jesus is never easy. The disciples “left everything” to follow Christ, and the Lord promised them “a hundred times as much” blessing in return ([Mark 10:28-30](#)). Jesus warned that all who follow Him must deny themselves and bear a daily cross ([Luke 9:23](#)). Hardship, to be sure, but hardship with a purpose and leading to the joy of the Lord.

Followers of Christ also face resistance from the world. “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” ([2 Timothy 3:12](#)). Jesus did not promise His disciples that everything would be coming up roses for them; just the opposite—He promised that they would have trials in this world.

Perhaps we need to make a list of reasons to let things go and, for each person, that list will be different. But here is a good place to start: When your thoughts go to memories more than the present! When you cry more than you laugh and love!

We cannot know what the disciples were living when Jesus passed by. We cannot know what they left behind. But we can indeed be thankful that they immediately let go of what was holding them and answered his call to “follow”. Had they not, would we even be reading the Gospel this Sunday?

In conclusion, I offer the following prayer:

Jesus, we are humbled that you consider us worthy to be called and used—in ways big and small. Help us respond without hesitation whenever we perceive your voice calling us into action. May we let go of fear and uncertainty and bring with us faith in your love for the world and for us. In your powerful name, we pray, Amen.

In peace and love

Pastor Beryl DLM

Looking Back, Way Back

Well, it’s a new year and a new church, but I’m afraid I’m up to my old tricks, by which I mean: rummaging through dusty old papers! I enjoyed the cover image at right from The Broadcast, which was, essentially, the newsletter for Verdun United back in the 30s and 40s. The image below showing one section of the inside, indicates that it was published every other Friday, in this case on April 22, 1938. The cover image made me think it must be Easter time, and indeed I checked and Easter fell on April 24th that year, so this issue must have been distributed on Good Friday. (cont’d)



April 22

VERDUN UNITED CHURCH

Broadcast

Issued every other Friday.

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SUNDAY EVENINGS

April 24—Next Sunday evening's Service will be in the form of a celebration or rejoicing. Because of the amount expected from the Lenten boxes we hope to dethrone King Coal as an influence which has seriously embarrassed the financing of the Church through the years. King Coal's letters of authority, or in other words the church's coal bills, will be burnt to rejoice over the favourable financial position of the church in having no arrears on the coal bill to worry over this summer and next fall.

After the service a Biblical drama entitled "Release", will be presented in the church hall under the direction of John Downey. It is a drama well known in the churches of the United States and Canada, and should be seen for the sake of its Easter message.

May 1—The evening service will consist of solos, duets, quaretttes, hymns and anthem, such

Verdun United, as expressed in the article to the left, had been having a hard time keeping the heat on at 650 Woodland over the winters due to the price of coal.

Like everywhere else in 1938, Verdun was still struggling through the Great Depression. Although the congregation numbered hundreds of families at that time, many of them must have been hard pressed to put food on the table, let alone make offerings to the church.

In spite of all, the writer (perhaps Rev. Joyce himself) is confident that the outstanding amounts will be paid and the congregation will not have to worry about coal bills until the next fall

So the good people of Verdun would don their Easter bonnets, head to church in style and rejoice.

Amy

Announcements

As of yesterday, we have a new phone line, with a new number! It is **(514) 538-0624**. You will see I have changed it in the footer of this newsletter. Our mailing address is now: 225 50th Avenue, Lachine Qc. H8T 2T7

All other contact info remains the same.

Upcoming Services

January 22nd: Pastor Beryl will lead worship this Sunday at 11:30a.m.

January 29th, will be a **Combined Service**: we are invited to attend the **10a.m.** service with Rev. Christine-Marie and the Summerlea congregation. Our choir members are invited to come at 9 a.m. to prepare with the Summerlea choir. A shared **soup lunch** will follow.



Our Prayer List

Bridget McCarthy
Phyllis Luther
Shirley Mitchell
Patrick O'Leary
Natalie Lalonde
Doris Smith
Maurice Tringle
Gilles Gauthier
Helen Cameron
May Cook
Donna Cobb
Keith Wood
Violet L'Esperance
Roberta Roberts
Sylvia Vallee-Girouard

If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.



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