

Friday News from SouthWest

January 6, 2023

January 2023: Something to be Thankful For

As we hover still between the year passed and the new one opening before us, I turned to treasured and familiar stories and poems I have kept over time. In re-reading them, I often find wisdom which escaped me until I was ready to receive it.

For some, our old SouthWest United is a place of hovering while we await the spirit's comforting welcome into our new home. I found some comfort in the following words from John O'Donohue. I hope the sharing will be of comfort to you too.

At The End Of The Year

— A Blessing by John O'Donohue

*As this year draws to its end,
We give thanks for the gifts it brought
And how they became inlaid within
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.*

*The days when the veil lifted
And the soul could see delight;
When a quiver caressed the heart
In the sheer exuberance of being here.*

*Surprises that came awake
In forgotten corners of old fields
Where expectation seemed to have quenched.*

*The slow, brooding times
When all was awkward
And the wave in the mind
Pierced every sore with salt.*

*The darkened days that stopped
The confidence of the dawn.*

*Days when beloved faces shone brighter
With light from beyond themselves;
And from the granite of some secret sorrow
A stream of buried tears loosened.*

*We bless this year for all we learned,
For all we loved and lost
And for the quiet way it brought us
Nearer to our invisible destination*

John O'Donohue (1 January 1956 – 4 January 2008) was an Irish poet, author, priest, and Hegelian philosopher.

I hope you will join us at our new destination on January 8th, 11:30 a.m.

In peace

Pastor Beryl, DLM

****As of Sunday, January 8, Pastor Beryl will lead SouthWest services at Summerlea United Church at 11:30AM. The address is 225 50th Avenue, Lachine, Qc. H8T 2T7****

In Memoriam

Mabel Warnock

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Mabel Warnock, nee Moore, in her 92nd year. She and husband Frank, who passed away in 2008, were long-time members of Crawford Park United. Mabel had been living with her eldest daughter Debbie in Ontario. She is also survived by two sons, Glenn and Gary, and several grandchildren.

Ann Duhamel

We only recently learned that Ann passed away last July. Those who attended Wednesday services at the Mission will remember that Ann prepared Wednesday lunches there for several years. As I recall, stuffed peppers were one of her specialties, and always a hit. Ann also rolled up her sleeves every December helping to prepare Christmas baskets for local families. We had not seen her recently, but I know that in the first two years of the pandemic she often watched our services when

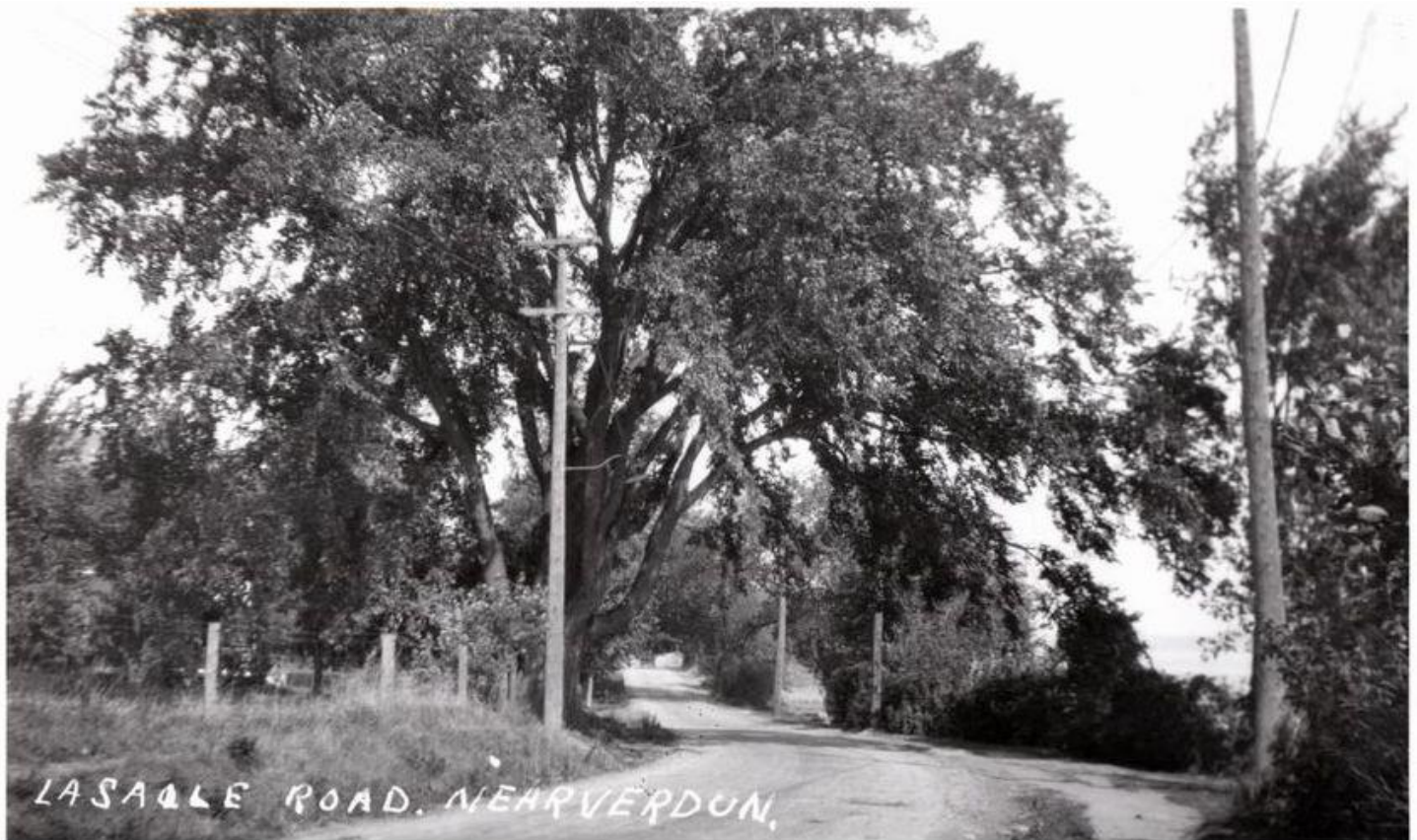
they were posted on Facebook, and often commented with a “thank you”. Condolences to her friends and loved ones.

Right: Ann with one of her beloved cats (from her Facebook page).



A Glimpse of Old Verdun

This picture, taken from a Facebook post by Montreal Historical Photos, shows “Lasalle Road”, the predecessor of Lasalle Boulevard, probably in the 1930s. It’s not clear exactly where this was taken, but changes are it’s in what is now Crawford Park, taken when it was nothing but countryside!



Daily Bible Reading Guides

Some copies of the Daily Reading Guides from the Canadian Bible Society will be available at church on Sunday. Those who receive this newsletter by mail will find a copy enclosed this week.

Announcements

As of this writing, the SouthWest telephone line has not been set up at Summerlea, and neither has the internet. The phone number and email address will remain the same, and all should be up and running early next week.

Coming Up at Summerlea United (225 50th Ave., Lachine):

Saturday, January 14: Used Jigsaw Puzzle Sale. They are accepting donations.

Masks: Please wear a mask in church, except when seated during coffee time.

Our Prayer List

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.



SouthWest United Church

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