



KINGSTON COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

HELPING EX-PRISONERS TRANSITION SAFELY INTO OUR COMMUNITY

WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Chaplain's Message

It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I write this message, having accepted the permanent Kingston Community Chaplain position, effective June 29, 2016. I am writing to introduce myself and to ask for your prayers as I prepare to work in partnership with you, our community supporters.

When I first learned of this position, I was moved to apply as it seemed to be a good fit for my experience. For more than 11 years I have served in ministry including such roles as Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor, Chaplain at St. Lawrence College, Chair of the Kingston Street Truck Mission, Missions Trip Coordinator/Leader, Key-Note Speaker and Small Group Leader. I am a huge proponent of Relational Ministry and as a result, my focus in ministry is on POURING into PEOPLE more than programs. I have learned through experience what individuals long for is authentic relationships with God and others, and a sense of community. God has blessed me with both a great responsibility and a gift, in allowing me to serve Him by serving others. I do not take such a privilege lightly. I strive to lead by being a servant first, the love of God leading me and providing the foundation of any care I provide. My particular ministry interests are outreach, discipleship, and all that is involved in the work of redemption and restoration. In my spare time, I enjoy cycling, Taekwondo, reading, cooking, the arts and travel.

Having met with the KCC board, I was delighted to be offered the position. I am looking forward to engaging in the restorative and redemptive work of KCC and possibly working alongside some of you as volunteers in the future.

I recognize that having a new community chaplain come on board may be a time of some speculation – “What’s she going to be like?” To briefly answer that question, I believe in openness and honesty, clear communication and working together! So please feel free to contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance to you, or with any questions you may have.

May God richly bless us in the months ahead as we work together for the benefit of our clients and the community.



Welcome, Cathleen.

HELPING CREATE A SAFE COMMUNITY

We believe that when crime happens, it is not only the victim and offender who are affected but the whole community. We seek to promote healing and safety for all people as we learn how to live together in community once again.

Our New Program Coordinator

Kingston Community Chaplaincy has a new Program Coordinator, Athanas Njeru. Athanas has many years of experience working with the not-for-profit community in Canada and abroad in program development, monitoring and evaluation. He is passionate about research on social justice issues, immigration, settlement and advocacy for refugees and incarcerated newcomers in Canada.

Athanas has a Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology from the University of Toronto; a Master of Arts in Settlement and Immigration studies from Ryerson University; a Licentiate in Pastoral Counselling in Theology and postgraduate degrees in Sociology and Philosophy. In addition to his work with Kingston Community Chaplaincy, Athanas is active in resettling government sponsored refugees in Kingston and area.

Given the challenges facing ex-prisoners transitioning back into the community, Athanas has found this work similar to helping refugees newly arrived in Canada. He hopes to contribute in making the Kingston Community Chaplaincy as a centre of excellence in offering hope and healing to communities.

Friendship Meals

In the coming spring Kingston Community Chaplaincy will be hosting Friendship meals. These gatherings will bring together clients, friends, family and volunteers over a congenial meal supplied by KCC. Please watch for details in upcoming newsletters.



Chairperson's Message

As the new chair of the board I recognize that I do have a pair of huge shoes to fill following the six years of Gordon Darrall's leadership of compassion, patience and wisdom. At the same time, I am excited for our future. We have an incredible board of directors who work tirelessly for Kingston Community Chaplaincy and sacrifice many hours of their time heading up and being part of our various committees, with enthusiasm, wisdom and experience.

Our new chaplain, Cathleen Getchell, a woman of faith and compassion and within a few short months has endeared herself with our clients. Cathleen started out as our interim chaplain who jumped into a difficult position with faith and enthusiasm and with a willingness to work closely with the board of directors, and always keeping the integrity of our privacy policy in the forefront of her work.

Athanas Njeru, our new Program Coordinator is another great asset to KCC. Athanas works tirelessly with Syrian refugees coming to Kingston and yet continues to work with the same enthusiasm and compassion for KCC. Because of his efforts, we have resurrected our monthly friendship meals. Athanas is working on a volunteer manual which will be a great help to KCC, our volunteers and clients.

To all our donors and benefactors, on behalf of Kingston Community Chaplaincy and our clients, I thank you for your prayers and your generosity to KCC. Without you, we would not be able to help our clients reintegrate into society and thus making our community safer.

KINGSTON COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY OBJECTIVES

- To enact the goals and principles of Restorative Justice in relation to victims, offenders and community.
- To accompany men and women from incarceration to successful reintegration in the community by facilitating emotional, spiritual and practical support systems during their transition.
- To assist those who are at risk of engaging in criminal activity to find constructive and life affirming community resources.
- To dialogue with community groups to further their understanding of and response to the needs of offenders, victims and their families.

Kingston
Community
Chaplaincy
presents...

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

Arthur Miller



May 10th, 2017

7:30pm (doors open @ 7:00pm)

Domino Theatre (Davies Foundation Auditorium)
52 Church St., Kingston

Arthur Miller's modern American tragedy, explores the unravelling life of Willy Loman, who has spent his life 'way out there in the blue, riding a smile and a shoeshine', certain of his ability to sell anything and to provide for his family. Now he finds himself at the end of his career but no closer to achieving his dreams. As Willy struggles to reconcile the life he has with the life he hoped for, he is haunted by past events and the choices he has made.

Tickets \$20: 613-453-0891 * kingstoncommunitychaplaincy1@cogeco.ca

A Fundraiser for the work of the Kingston Community Chaplaincy
Providing ex-prisoners with safe & healthy reintegration into our community

Please Join Us

Client's Corner

The following poem is by a Board Member who was once a client of Project Reconciliation which later became Kingston Community Chaplaincy. We encourage you, our readers, to contribute creative writing, musings, poems, etc. which you feel could be of interest to the KCC community. If you have anything to share, please send your work to the newsletter editors care of the KCC e-mail address below.

Life of a Downy Woodpecker

Tap tap-tap
the gentle work of something making time
in these surprising woods of late December.

Tap ta-tap
winnowing bits of life from slender limbs,
cracked from sudden winds,
beneath the sloughing bark of ash and elm
and maples rising gaunt and high
to build a canopy
of almost-dying hardwood.

Great burl oak and crooked hickory
hold their secrets too, rot in the hollows,
homes for flying squirrels
defiant in this silence
and the warmth of waiting. Ta-tap
What subtle grace
from just a single downy bird
now murmurs from a surface frozen hard
into the very heart,

gives form to stillness;
motion where the freeze
has fallen stark and close, so very close:
and all the near-dead trees
shall surely stand,

stand through this fine grey morning
at the least.

Tap tap tap
small birds unhurried in their confidence
that sap shall rise re-birthing,
marking time;
for so tomorrow and tomorrow
each shall have her meal.

Tap Tap Tap Tap
tapping out the living
from the almost living,
feeding on the evidence
through our winter's lean enfolding freeze,

a flit of checkered light and rusty cap
a-wing across a breaking forest
seeking, seeking

promise upon promise,
pausing
rarely for a moment on a lichen stone
or fallen fencepost;

nothing there to pass her precious time
for dead wood hides no worm.
Tap Tap

~ John Rives © 2016

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!

Contact Us

Chaplain: 613-453-0891, email:

kingstoncommunitychaplaincy1@cogeco.ca CRP Centennial, P.O. Box 26,
Kingston, ON K7M 0C2 www.kingstoncommunitychaplaincy.org