

Mission and Outreach

Waiting for our Syrian Refugees

By the time you read this issue of *InsideOut*, it will have been just about fourteen months since July, 2016, when our applications to resettle Fadia and Hanan Zidan and their families were received by the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. Processing times, which were averaging eight months back then are now about fourteen months, meaning that, around now, our families should be getting the call from the Embassy to come in for their visa interviews.

We have been very fortunate to have the office of Marc Miller, our MP, making inquiries on our behalf and the Sponsorship Core Committee is anticipating good news very soon... and trying to fulfill immediate local needs

Hundreds of cross-border refugees need our help!

There is a strong and immediate need for fall and winter clothing, toiletries and household items for the hundreds of refugees crossing into Quebec as they flee the US. As of late August there are over 600 refugees living at the YMCA Residence on Tupper Street. The delay in processing welfare cheques is about 2 weeks and then families move out to find their own accommodation.

This is where we can help.

Instead of contacting the Y, interested families and individuals are encouraged to partner with a family to help them fulfill their immediate needs, which include transportation, household items, toiletries and clothing.

Please help! Thank you!

PWS&D – an active component of Mission and Outreach

Stepping down as Chair of Mission and Outreach, Brian Merrett has taken on the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) portfolio, so capably administered by Derek Foote over the past number of years. PWS&D is very active in international and local aid projects and, at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, we hold various events doing the year to bring awareness of and raise funds for this highly respected branch of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

We encourage you to read about their work on the PWS&D website and to see how you can get involved. Please visit presbyterian.ca/pwsd/get-involved and contact Brian at pwsd@standrewstpaul.com to offer your services.

Church School

So much to celebrate!

The Church School 2016-2017 year concluded with a number of very special occasions to celebrate. Our Church School participated in the **Palm Sunday Service** and then set up their **Spiritual Walk** in the Iona Room on Easter Sunday for families to enjoy.

In April, we had a great turnout for our **Annual Cabane a Sucre**. We were blessed with a “picture perfect” day and were delighted to welcome Susan Stevenson’s family visiting from Scotland!

Another delicious meal was prepared for us by Iain Lamont which everyone enjoyed at the **Mother’s Day Breakfast**. It was a special morning as some of our young people shared their talents in honoring Mothers and all the special women in their lives. Thanks to all who participated and a special thank you to Iain for his amazing faithfulness to our Church School!

We had a wonderful **Confirmation** group this year and the following young people were welcomed into the Congregation on Sunday, May 21st. Cecilia Andrivon, Nico Cristofaro, Caroline Dahdah, Nicholas Dahdah, Islay McDonald, Myriam Monterrozza, Sheldon Philips and Brianna Simons. These young people were asked to prepare a Statement of Faith at the end of our series and we were struck by the sincerity and thoughtfulness that each put into their statements. I would like to share some of



Happy Mother’s Day to this family!