

ORLEANS UNITED CHURCH  
Ottawa, Ontario

Making room for you ...

... in worship

... in community

... in learning

... in serving

# newsletter

SUMMER, 2011

in this issue...

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## A New Look for OUC's Newsletter

*It's not coincidence that the words **community** and **communicate** look so much alike. One of the most important things about being included in the church is keeping informed about the joys and challenges of faith we share together. So, we are experimenting with a few new ways of communicating. Our website is currently being revamped for Fall 2011 and Orleans United is now on Facebook! In addition, we are re-imagining OUC's newsletter.*

*Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will be published quarterly and be filled with stories of faith and ministry that make a difference in our lives. We are also searching for a new look, and would appreciate your feedback on this experimental format.*

### Believing and Belonging

The understanding of Membership (having one's name in the historic roll of a congregation) within the United Church of Canada is changing, especially in the last few decades.

As OUC's ministers, we wanted to experiment with a conversation that would reimagine what church membership means at Orleans United. So we invited some folks who were not on OUC's historic roll to consider what being a part of our church family meant to them. In a two-night series, we were fortunate to gather with interested congregation people to embark on this journey together.

During our first session, we explored the concept of "believing." Using faith statements as a jumping off point, we shared together our own beliefs and came to further appreciate the diversity of theological understandings that exist within Orleans United.

Our second evening focussed on "belonging" as we considered what membership within any group means. That led us to examine the expectations that we may have of our congregation, as well as the expectations OUC has of each of us.

The end result of this process was that four individuals have joined our congregation as Members. But more importantly, a wonderful group of people enjoyed two evenings of meaningful and intentional sharing of our faith.

Sound curious? If you think this Fall you might like to explore a little more about what it means to believe in God and to belong at Orleans United, talk with Rev. Molly or Rev. Glen.

### Making room for you ...

Our work with *Future Directions* consultant, Trish Elliot, helped inspire the tag-line in this newsletter banner and soon-to-be revitalized website. We want to remind everyone of OUC's commitment to build the kind of faith community that is spiritually open and receptive to anyone seeking a church home. Help us spread the word by inviting your family and friends to find their place in our worshipping, learning, and serving community!