



by Arlene Baschak

It's not long since I was writing for our fall newsletter. Now we are well into this year. What a great year this has been so far!

I am super pleased with our new EXPANDED choir and what we've been able to do together. As well as the various anthems the choir has sung in our services (sometimes 2 even on one Sunday!), it was especially thrilling to hear them sing at Riverview Health Center. 18 members of our choir squeezed into a tiny space at Riverview, a space not used to so many voices!

I am also super pleased with the musical guests we have hosted, everything from a guest poet, John Oldham, to a talented young student, singer, James Campbell, and trumpet player, Matt Neufeld. (Thank you Bert Whiteman Scholarship!) The diversity of their musical expressions truly enriched our worship time together.

I am also super thrilled with the instrumentalists emerging out of our own congregation. Now there are two guitarists - Don Young and Alisha Barys!! and the hint of other instrumentalists to come out of the closet SOON!

And we have even more singers than just the choir - we have our youth singers! A big thank you to our youth singers who sang for worship at the time of our fall street party! And wait, there's more ahead! Next the men's chorus will be rehearsing beginning Sunday November 29th and continuing each Sunday in Advent AFTER church. (The Senior choir will continue to meet at 9 am to prepare for both Advent and Christmas.)

There's more guests ahead. . . Monica Bailey the flautist, on the 4th Sunday in Advent, and Claudine St. Arnauld, a violinist on Christmas Eve. The excitement never stops!

Before I sign off, I have one other exciting piece of news. Several members of CPUC were at the "River Running" United Church national event last weekend, an event encouraging congregations to move to a more intercultural expression. Intercultural is bigger than multicultural. Although both mean a meeting of many cultures, races, ethnicities and languages, intercultural means that no one culture dominates. Sometimes at the congregational level, the church reflects one culture, but this is not the truth of the universal church that belongs to Christ, the universal church which embraces people around the world of ALL cultures. As one keynote speaker said, " we do not have to have our churches filled with children and youth before we seek to make our worship relevant to the next generation . . . we do not have to wait until we have people from other parts of the world in our midst to sing their songs, in their languages. . ." As we seek to become an intercultural church, we become part of a bigger picture and honour our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.