

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TURKEY DINNER 2016



LENNOXVILLE UNITED
CHURCH



Lennoxville United Church 2016 Christmas Bazaar and Turkey Supper

The United Church Women of Lennoxville United Church welcome in the Christmas Season with its warm and festive 2016 Bazaar and Turkey Supper. Held on Saturday, November 19th this annual event brought together not only members of the congregation, but a legion of volunteers from the community-at-large and from Champlain Regional College in a well-organized effort to prepare and serve the almost 600 people who enjoyed a full course, home-made turkey dinner with fresh cranberry sauce, pickles, rolls and coleslaw, and a choice of assorted pies for dessert. Preparing and coordinating such an event requires the dedicated participation of teams of the many volunteers who are headed by Kitchen Convenors Margaret Young and Deanna McNab. There were teams of volunteers who peeled the 200 pounds of potatoes and 110 pounds of carrots, those who cooked and kept hot many large kettles of mixed vegetables and potatoes as well as gallons of gravy and the five men who formed the turkey-carving brigade and who carved the 18, 20+ pound turkeys. Others prepared and served huge containers of coleslaw while pickles and cranberry sauce were scooped into serving bowls and fifty-two dozen rolls were gently placed in baskets ready for delivery to each table. More volunteers spent hours cutting and plating the 117 solicited pies required to bring these 600 meals to a sweet and satisfying end. Under the convenorship of Pat Smith, Bev Ross and Gail Lloyd another group of volunteers folded 550+ napkins and set the tables to accommodate the 450 diners. We are greatly indebted to the servers who play such a vital role in the success of the Turkey Supper, filling water glasses and tea and coffee cups, ferrying bowls of vegetables and coleslaw, pitchers of gravy, baskets of rolls and platters of turkey to hungry patrons and then preparing the tables for the following two sittings. We also thank Bruce and Matthew Fowler for being responsible for the preparation and serving of the tea and coffee. We offer a huge thank you to Dale Smith for his skill at crowd control and reserved seating. Thanks also to the volunteers who accepted the calls for reservations and sold supper tickets.

While our guests were enjoying their suppers in the Lower Hall Dining Room, some 90 volunteers were taking well-earned supper breaks in the “Workers’ Dining Room” hosted by Joe McKercher, Alan Young and Rob Weary. Working in the same venue, Marilyn Magwood and Ann Belden prepared 33 take out dinners, some of which were kindly delivered by Rob Weary.



Ninety minutes before the first turkey dinner was served, the Upper Hall doors opened and the Christmas Bazaar officially began. Just minutes before that, Bazaar Convenor, Kristan McKercher took the opportunity to thank all the Bazaar volunteers for their tremendous efforts in preparing the site for its visitors and the Reverend Linda Buchanan offered a prayer of thanksgiving for all who had worked and would continue to work for the success of this event and provided a moment of calm for our somewhat frazzled souls!



There are so many more dedicated volunteers to acknowledge for their work organizing and running the Bazaar and its many tables: Carolyn Gilchrist, Vi Mackey and Gloria Stronach headed an amazing group of Silent Auction workers; Donna & Kim McKell, Allison Connelly and Glenys Groves whose Attic Treasures Room was such a success; Sandy Davidson and her family and friends for setting a new record in sales of Candy; Shirley Bassett and her helper, Jackie Wallace, who worked at their table of knitted, crocheted and sewn items. Shirley’s dedication to this fund raising effort is legendary as she will start knitting for Bazaar 2017 almost immediately! Jean Porter, Bev Oakley, Wendy Mason and Bernice Keats, who all did a fantastic job coordinating the Wish Table. A huge thank you goes out to the operators of the Fish Pond, Amelia Kerr Hartwell and her assistant Hannah Gilpin who were a big help to Bernice Keats. At another site, Jean Coates, with the help of Gwen Bayley, sold over \$500.00 worth of Jean’s beautiful hand-made jewelry and donated the profits to our Church.



The Food Table, laden with its UCW-made doughnuts, fruit cakes, Christmas Puddings, jams and jellies and donated cakes, loaves, rolls and other delicious baked goods as well as its UCW Christmas Food Basket and the basket of Lorraine's Baking realized its most profitable year to date which speaks not only to the generosity of its donors but also to the support of its patrons – we actually ran out of doughnuts! This sales area is supervised by Bazaar Convenor Kristan McKercher assisted by Isobel Sarrasin, Debbie Harrison, Frances Smith, Ann Weary, Debbie Everett and Hazel Steinbach, all of whom worked tirelessly both before and during this event.



Lennoxville United Church Women offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered at, donated to and patronized its 2016 Christmas Bazaar and Turkey Supper and anyone we may have inadvertently omitted in the foregoing. We could not do this alone. We are blessed by our community and its good will which, again this year, made this significant fund raiser for our Church such a rewarding success.



Submitted by:
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