

**COVENANTING SERVICE WITH CATHERINE OXFENFORD-GRANT**  
**RIDEAU PASTORAL CHARGE**  
**AND FOUR RIVERS PRESBYTERY**

The congregations of Rideau Pastoral Charge gathered in a joint service at Newboro U.C. at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2015 to celebrate the covenant with Catherine Oxenford-Grant, the members of Rideau Pastoral Charge and Four Rivers Presbytery.

The Gathering Hymn “People, Look East” was followed by the Call to Worship and the opening prayer. “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” prepared us for the lighting of the first Advent candle with the Badure family.

Mike Freeman provided special offertory music with “The Family Bible”. The congregational offering was collected and special offering envelopes were provided to receive donations for the Conference Student Bursary Fund to assist students in ministry with the cost of their studies.

The choir provided a lovely rendition of “I Am the Dream”.

The Rev. David Spivey brought the message today. He told how the folks at Addison U. C. have a jigsaw puzzle out on a table. There is always at least one on the go and often more. It is fascinating to watch how people work at solving them. Some do the outside boundaries first; others work on small parts of the same colour or same item – these point out the way for others to add more pieces. Everyone does it differently but mostly everyone eventually picks up the cover to see the big picture. In the church we all work in bits and pieces too – we all work together to be faithful to the big picture.

In today’s scripture passage from John 21: 15-17, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. This is a critical question. It was very scary for the disciples who were having a very difficult time seeing the big picture right at the moment.

The Old Testament prophets were acutely aware of the big picture. Sometimes it is a thing of beauty to behold and sometimes it is to be a mirror for us. We do our best to share the big picture with the rest of the world. God bless us as we look at the puzzle box lid to ensure we are seeing the big picture and how it should really look.

Everyone was invited to join in a celebration of Holy Communion served by Catherine and Rev. Spivey.

Sue Hutton, Chair of Four Rivers Presbytery and Cathy Ryan, Chair of Ministry Vocations, led us through the service to covenant with Catherine Oxenford-Grant, the members and adherents of Rideau Pastoral Charge and the members of Presbytery. Catherine, the congregation, the Transition Team and Presbytery all promised to do their best to live out the covenant and to support one another through this time of Catherine’s ministry in this place. Members of Presbytery in attendance today included Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Alvin Dobbie, Wayne Harris, Sue Hutton, Bruce Jackson, May LaHay, Karen McLean, Shelley Roberts, Cathy Ryan, David Spivey and Lynne Stockless.

Following the closing hymn, “I Have Called You by Your Name”, and the benediction, everyone was invited to enjoy the delicious refreshments provided by the good folks of Rideau P.C. Special music was provided as a wonderful backdrop to this time of fellowship.

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Sue Hutton, Chair

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Karen McLean, Secretary