



First United Church
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MINUTE FOR MISSION - IT DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Good morning everyone.

I worked at an auction yesterday out at Rockford that featured the toy collection of the late Carl Jolley. Some of you might know Carl - he operated a small toy museum on the outskirts of Meaford and it was his collection that we offered at auction. Carl loved toys - he loved to collect them, repair and restore them, he loved showing them to others.

One of the highlights of the auction for me was the twenty or so peddle cars. How many of you ever had a peddle car? Perhaps as a child or as parent of a child?

Some of them were made to be exact smaller models of full size cars or trucks. Others were less detailed, more stylized versions of the full sized vehicles...or boats or airplanes. I'm certain they were enjoyed by children long before they became part of Carl's collection.

One odd occurrence at the auction reminded me of the importance of perspective in our lives. We had several pedal cars that were once so popular and collectible that the Hallmark gift company eventually made miniature replicas of them. Carl collected those too. In the offering yesterday, we had several of these matching sets: for instance, a child's pedal car that was designed as a runabout boat - about 3 feet long, and a matching Hallmark miniature collectible of that same peddle car - about 7 inches long. By the photographs of the items that we projected during the auction, it was difficult to tell which was the real peddle car and which was the miniature. Several times, people had to ask that question: is this the "big" peddle car or is this the smaller version? As I said, perspective is important.

I don't know what your individual perspective is about the Mission & Service Fund. Mine has changed over the past 10 years in which I've been the M&S Enthusiast here at First United. I've gone from a perspective of uncertainty about the Fund to one of absolute support for M&S. In the United Church of Canada, there is no other financial gift that is more closely tied to what Jesus taught about unconditional love and sharing. If you decide to make a gift to the Mission & Service Fund, you do so knowing only that it will go to support a person or community in need. It might be right here in Owen Sound, or somewhere in Ontario, or somewhere in Canada, or somewhere else in the world.

All we know is that we have offered a gift and that it will go where it is needed. Whether you support Mission & Service financially depends largely on your perspective. Is your generosity tied to what Jesus taught, or is it governed by some other consideration? Is it the real peddle car or is it a smaller version?

Thank you for your ongoing support to Mission & Service.

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PAT - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND - 171st ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality and culture of the Anishinabe peoples on whose traditional territories we gather and whose ancestors signed Treaties 45½ and 72 with our ancestors. We recognize also, the Great Lakes Métis whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. May we all, as Treaty People, live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all of its diverse peoples