



EOORC News

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

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The deadline for submissions to *Then Let Us Sing!* -- the United Church of Canada's all digital church music resource -- is fast approaching: **January 15, 2022.**

Then Let Us Sing! Is a new online hymnal and music resource from United Church Publishing House and GIA Publications. It will be available in the fall of 2024.

Information on the project and how to submit your music and lyrics is on our [website](#). Also, new FAQs have been added.

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RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

Winter 2021 Newsletter
is now [available](#)



Trinity United Church in Middleville
has 25 choir robes for sale.
11 do not have the gold collar.
Looking for \$10 each.
Contact Marg MacNeill
email marg.reg.macneill@gmail.com
or 613-259-2719

Save These EOORC 2022 Dates!

Winter Informational Meeting – Saturday, February 26, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
EOORC Annual Meeting – May 27 – 28, 2022 (via Zoom)
Celebration of Ministry – Saturday, April 9, 2022 (in person)



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Emmanuel College
Upcoming Events and
courses
[More information](#)

OTTAWA PASTORAL CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

SERVING OTTAWA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

[Up and coming courses 2022](#)

Please note: All of our courses, events and workshops are being offered online at the present time. As they fill up quickly, it is recommended to register early to avoid disappointment.

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The Mystery of the Two Plaques and Minnie Gallaher's War

by Eleanor Dunn, McKay United Church



When St. Paul's Eastern United Church closed its doors at the end of June, its artifacts found a new home in MacKay United Church in New Edinburgh. There were two plaques memorializing World War 1 dead. One of the plaques listed the names of those members of the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church who made the ultimate sacrifice and the other bore the names of the fallen members of the Eastern Methodist Church congregation.

During the war, the two neighbour congregations in Sandy Hill started working together and sharing facilities in 1915, with activity centered in the St. Paul's Presbyterian building on Daly Avenue. Eastern Methodist's facility was on King Edward Avenue and later became the home of the Ottawa Little Theatre. So it was natural, when church union came about the two congregations became one and St. Paul's Eastern United was the result.

We've all seen them when we visit older churches. Plaques, illuminated scrolls, listing names of sons and daughters of the church who died serving their country. There are stories behind these names, and over the years, historian Alan Bowker has presented these stories of MacKay United's war dead as part of the Remembrance Day service. Last Remembrance Day, he told of the nine men and one woman whose names are on the St. Paul's Presbyterian World War 1 memorial plaque. The woman, Minnie Katherine Gallaher was also a child of the manse; her father was a Presbyterian minister.

While the men died on battlefields in France, Minnie's story is different. A military nurse, she was caught up in one of the worst atrocities of the war, the torpedoing and sinking of the hospital ship Llandoverly Castle off the coast of Ireland in June, 1918. The German submarine captain believed the Llandoverly Castle was a troop ship disguised as a hospital ship. He quickly realized his mistake, so when his sub surfaced, he ordered the crew to machine gun all the survivors in the lifeboats, believing no one would live to tell the tale. But 24 did.

Minnie was one of 14 Canadian nurses aboard the ship. A 1901 graduate of the Ottawa Protestant Hospital nurse training program, she rose through the ranks and became assistant superintendent of nursing at the Ottawa General Hospital. When she enlisted in 1915, she was superintendent of nursing at the Moose Jaw Hospital. She treated the wounded in military hospitals in Britain and France before being deployed to the Llandoverly Castle.

After the torpedo struck, the 14 nurses were helped into a lifeboat. Sgt. Arthur Knight, who miraculously survived, was in charge and told of the harrowing rescue. They used the lifeboat's oars in an effort to keep the lifeboat from being pounded into the side of the ship, but the oars broke. Eventually the ropes became loose and the drift carried the lifeboat towards the ship's stern. Then the poop deck collapsed, the lifeboat was drawn into the vortex and flipped over with all aboard thrown into the sea where they were drawn into the whirlpool caused by the submerging deck.

While all the nurses were wearing lifebelts, two were in nightdress and 12 were in full uniform. Sgt. Knight said he sank three times before getting to surface where he was picked up by the Llandoverly Castle captain's life raft. Sailors on the HMS Moreau were horrified when they came upon the wreckage. The Moreau's captain described the scene of floating corpses of the nurses, Minnie Gallaher among them, their huge aprons and skirts in billows which looked like sails because they had dried while floating in the hot sun.

When the war ended, the Llandoverly Castle atrocity was one of six German war crimes tried at Leipzig. Unfortunately, the submarine captain escaped to the independent country of Danzig prior to the trial. Crewmen who manned the machine guns said they were "just following orders" so the penalties were light.

Thus ended Minnie Gallaher's war. Her name is on the monument in the cemetery in Halifax commemorating those lost at sea during World War 1. She is buried in Beechwood Cemetery.

Eleanor Dunn is the Media Relations/Communications Officer for McKay United Church. She occasionally writes stories of historical significance for EOORC News.

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News from the General Council Office

2023

Calendar

[Call](#) for Calendar Photos 2023



E-ssentials

The January 4th issue of [Essentials](#) is available.



The January 6th issue of [United In Learning](#) is available, with offerings for courses in the new year.



The [Manual, 2022](#) is now available. New edition effective January 1, 2022

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