

# CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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## Minister's Musings

### Grace-filled Church

Philip Yancey relates a question posed by Gordon MacDonald during a conversation with him: What is the one thing the church has to offer that the world cannot get anywhere else? After all, MacDonald notes, you don't have to be a Christian to build home for the homeless, feed the poor, or donate to charity. You don't have to be a Christian to try to effect political change or pass social legislation. There are other traditions and teachers that offer wise moral instruction. What's the one thing that the church has to offer that the world cannot get anywhere else? Grace! Where else can the world go to find grace? Living in grace, remembering grace, keeps love alive.

Let's live in grace. Let's remember grace. We need to stand close to the cross. We need to regularly and honestly examine ourselves, confess our sins and shortcomings, and accept God's word of forgiveness. It is much harder to be ungracious to people, to refuse to forgive others, when we're standing in the shadow of Christ.

We also need to stay close to those who might be called "gracious-providing" people. We need to some people who accept us, welcome us, and love us, no matter what. I need some grace-providers. You do too. You need them because you have other kinds of people in your life, who will judge you and critique you and remind you of your raggedness in ways that will tear you down.

May we be a grace-filled, grace-dispensing church. May we be grace-filled, grace-providing Christians. When we are together, let's nourish culture of grace.

"Judging others makes us blind, but love gives us sight. By judging others, we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."  
 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer



## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team is available to every member of the congregation. The team has people in place to help with rides, meals, visitation, grief support and counselling, help for caregivers that need a visit or a break and so much more.

Going forward in 2020, the goal is to make the Pastoral Care team more present in the minds of the church, so that it becomes natural to call and let us know of your joys, your sadness, your need for prayer and your need for help.

We know it's hard to ask for help sometimes. There are people willing, ready and able to assist you, to pray with you, to support you in your time of need.

Carla Zacharias, Pastoral Care Team Leader

**NOTES FROM THE LOFT**



As we head into February, the choir will be having a clinic on February 9. Every once in a while we get together after our regular practice with a small potluck lunch and then head back upstairs for another 2 hours of practice! This is so we can get in some more focussed rehearsal. We are coming up to Lent and have extra services to prepare for.

As always, If you love singing and wouldn't mind hanging out for an extra hour after church on Sundays, come check out the rehearsal and talk to Carla or Doug about joining the choir. Or, if you would like to share some special music for a service, please speak to the Music Team Leader to make those arrangements.

Our Praise Team could use a few more voices to help lead the praise songs at the beginning of the service. If you would be able to come early on a Sunday morning to rehearse that day's selections, please speak to Carla about adding your name!

Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 5	Youth Meeting	7:00 pm
February 6	Mission team Meeting	7:00 pm
February 8	Games Night	7:00 pm
February 9	LGBTG Meeting after service	
	Choir Potluck & Clinic	1:00 pm
February 12	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
February 13	Mission Team Meeting	7:00 pm
February 15	CCWF Meeting	10:00 am
	Baby Shower for Christian & Sam	12:30 pm
February 16	Confirmation Class	5:30 pm
February 19	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Youth Group	7:00 pm
February 20	Mission Team Meeting	7:00 pm
February 22	Coldest Night of the Year Walk Reg.	4:00 pm
February 23	Birthday Cake Sunday	
	Intergenerational Service	
	Clifton Manor Service	2:00 pm
	(Rev. Kim / Richard Carter)	
	Confirmation Class	5:30 pm
February 25	Worship Committee	6:00 pm
	Session	7:00 pm
February 26	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Vision Team Meeting	7:00 pm
February 27	Mission Team Meeting	7:00 pm

**VISION TEAM**

The Vision Team meets once a month on the 4th Wednesday.



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 23!!**

Once again we will be having our Birthday Celebration Sunday. On the tables downstairs will be place cards with the birthday month. At fellowship time, please find your birth month table and get to know others celebrating with you.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and we ask that one or two people sign up to bring a cake for their birth month. It can be a homemade cake or a store bought cake.



**SHARE THE LOVE**



Since February is the month when we celebrate Valentine's Day, the Vision team is encouraging each of us to share the love.

We are asking each family or individual to connect with someone you don't know or someone you don't know well. You could do this by having them to your house for Sunday lunch, Friday night coffee or take them for breakfast on a Saturday.....or a Tuesday , whatever works for you. By connecting with others on an informal level it is hoped that we will get to know each other better and thereby strengthen our bond as a congregation.

Share your love with others.

The Vision Team

**DID YOU KNOW ...**

We have lots of special events to share at Centennial. Did you know that if you want to have a celebration during Coffee hour, you should call the office to make sure there isn't another event planned for the same time? As well, we can let the fellowship volunteers know there will be some extra activity and make sure that you have enough people to help clean up afterwards.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please ensure the office has your email address. At this time we have 48 email addresses. You can send your address to [office@centennialchurch.ca](mailto:office@centennialchurch.ca).

If you would like more information about the committees and groups in Centennial and what they do, please grab a pamphlet from the carousel in the narthex. It will give you lots of information about what they do and who to contact.

March Newsletter submission deadline is February 27.

## THE MISSION TEAM

We would like to introduce you to our awesome team. Okelo Aballa, Kwo Ojulo, Doug Bonar, Colleen Doyle, Colleen Broadwell, Evelyn Good, Omot Ochudho, Joseph Omot, Daniel Aballa and Pat McKinnon.

We have had a super busy year with several local initiatives that are ongoing throughout the year. In the summer we have a community garden which is planted and tended by members of the congregation. When harvested, the vegetables are given to Robert McClure church's community food bank.

Our team also headed the food bank contributions that are given by the congregation. Our thanks to Joe Peter who made the deliveries to the Calgary Food Bank, this past year.

In the past year we have spent many long hours on our international initiative. We applied for and received approval to sponsor a family of seven. They currently live in a resettlement camp in Kenya and wish to settle in Canada. This past year our team worked on the necessary paperwork and did several fundraisers to raise the needed funds we would need to support this family for the first year that they are in Canada. We received a \$5000. donation from Pilipino seniors. We are very grateful. We also were given a \$1000. donation from CCWF. Thank you very much ladies. We also, found, stored and searched for "in kind" furniture, kitchen items, bedding, clothing.

With a go ahead from Kenya in the summer, we got word that the family would be arriving in Calgary on November 06. What a surprise that was for the whole team, as we were thinking in terms of years, not months, when they would arrive.

Members of the Mission's team, members of the congregation, members of the family and friends were on hand at YYC to warmly greet the family when they arrived on the late evening of November 06.

To be continued....

Pat & Okelo

## FROM THE SESSION:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be considering a change in its policy regarding human sexuality at the General Assembly meeting in June, 2020. The current definition of marriage is that it is between a man and a woman. The new policy will state that marriage is between a man and a woman or equally between any two persons.

With this new policy, individual congregations will be able to decide whether they wish to continue with the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman or if they wish to support the definition of marriage as between any two persons.

A secret ballot vote is being planned for members of the congregation to indicate their preference. This vote will be held at our Annual Meeting on March 1, 2020 following the morning service.

Another information and discussion session will be held regarding this potential policy change after the morning service on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Information is readily available on this issue at: <https://presbyterian.ca/sexuality/>. In particular the LMA – Sexuality Study Guide.pdf has a report on pages 17-28 that discusses biblical references to human sexuality.

If you can have your questions given to the minister or an elder before the meeting this should facilitate clearer discussion and better answers to concerns.

The Annual General Meeting for Centennial Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2020 following the morning service and a light lunch. For the lunch we are encouraging people to bring international finger foods that don't require plates and cutlery to be eaten. Expected start time for the meeting is 12:30 PM.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE ...

### Bulletin Bloopers

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The new projector and screen for the back of the sanctuary has been installed and is in operation.

Beginning in January we have begun recording the entire service. This has not been without some issues. We are currently working on smoothing things out, particularly with respect to congregational singing and responses being picked up without dead air on the recordings. Please be patient as we work through these.

Worship Committee is responsible for the Ushers and Greeters. If you are interested in either of these ministries, and aren't already on the list, please email the office at [office@centennialchurch.ca](mailto:office@centennialchurch.ca) or Jim Broadwell directly at [broad2well@shaw.ca](mailto:broad2well@shaw.ca)

We will be considering having two A/V operators at each service. If you are interested in operation of Powerpoint and/or audio, please let us know. You can use the same contact information if you are interested.

If you have any comments or issues about the Worship Service, please let us know. We appreciate all comments, good or bad (but especially the good) and consider them all. You can email us, accost us after church or come to a meeting to express your views.

## PEWS NEWS

Picture day is March 1! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex for your 10 minute time slot. We will be doing this alongside the annual meeting.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Steve Rajan and family as he recovers from his heart attack; Michael and Belinda Ngedi and family with their son Benjamin who remains in

hospital; Christian Kiplagat whose mother is in hospital in Lethbridge waiting for heart surgery; and the Flim family as they deal with Pam's mom illness.

Join us February 15 at 12:30 pm for a baby shower for Sam and Christian Kiplagat! Speak to Pat McKinnon, Margaret McCord or Joyce Kim for more information.

## FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Youth Group 7:00 pm	6 Mission 7:00 pm	7	8 Games Night 7:00 pm
9 LGBTQ Meeting Choir Potluck & Clinic 1:00 pm	10	11	12 Board 7:30 pm	13 Mission 7:00 pm	14	15 CCWF 10:00 am Baby Shower 12:30 pm
16 Food Bank Sunday Confirmation Class 5:30-7:00 pm	17	18	19 Bible Study 10:00 am Youth Group 7:00 pm	20 Mission 7:00 pm	21	22 Coldest Night of the Year Walk - Registration 4:00 pm
23 Intergenerational Service Birthday Cake Clifton Manor 2:00 Confirmation Class 5:30-7:00 pm	24	25 Worship Ctee 6:00 pm Session 7:00 pm	26 Bible Study 10:00 am Vision Team 7:00 pm	27 Mission 7:00 pm	28	29 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am