

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
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Minister's Musings

What is your story?

Within the walls of Centennial are many stories of people and pastors who have come and gone. Brené Brown says, "Stories are data with a soul." Where opinions tend to be black and white and divide people into them and us, stories are multi-colored and render people vulnerable, bringing people together. When church people tell stories, they reveal the values, heroes, myths, and traditions of the church. "Each church has a unique story, or defining code, within the larger story of God's story." (Kevin Ford, "Transforming Church")

Rachel Held Evans says God is a storyteller and therefore as human beings created in God's image, "we are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God." We all have a story. A story about who we are. To know a person's story is a good start to understand a person. Everybody's story deserves to be listened to and taken seriously because it is his or her life. Listening to each other has been a lost art, many researchers insist. My story is unique, as is each person's, but all our stories have something common. They are filled with joy, pain, sorrow, growth, learning, mistakes, forgiveness, love, and peace.

And somehow, we come to understand that each person's unique story is not quite separate from each other. We quickly realize how deeply we are connected to each other. And our life is deeply connected to the life of the creation itself and the divine. This is a spiritual awakening that comes to us when we realize that our story is not just our story. Our story is a part of a bigger story, a part of a story bigger than ourselves. We Christians claim that the God whom we get to know through the Bible teaches this truth. We also learn from others' witnesses. I pray that our story as a whole, as a community, may become a wonderful story of God's grace, God's salvation.



"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEEME AFTER CLASS.



YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."

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.

As part of the Pastoral Care Team mandate for 2020, the Prayer Chain will be utilized more regularly. If you would like to be included as part of the prayer chain, please let Carla know so your number or email can be entered on the list for emails or texts. If you have neither, a phone call can be placed to give the prayer information.

If you have a prayer concern or request, please share with the team so you can be included in prayers.

Carla Zacharias, Pastoral Care Team Leader centpastoralcareteam@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

This month is an easy one for the choir! The choir has the last two weeks of the month off. However, with Easter just around the corner, they will more than make up for it with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter!

The Zacharias family will be heading to the Netherlands for the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland, thus the break for the choir!

Rosalinda and Richard Carter and Shirley Bates will take over the role of pianist/organist those weeks.

Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1	Annual Meeting Pictures	1:00 pm
March 7	World Day of Prayer Robert McClure Church	3:30 pm
March 8	Confirmation Class	5:30 pm
March 10	Presbytery Visitation	5:30 pm
March 11	Bible Study Board Meeting	10:00 am 7:00 pm
March 12	Mission Team Meeting	7:00 pm
March 15	Confirmation Class	5:30 pm
March 18	Bible Study Youth Group Meeting	10:00 am 7:00 pm
March 21	CCWF Meeting	10:00 am
March 19	Mission Team Meeting	7:00 pm
March 22	Intergenerational Service Clifton Manor Service (Patience/Rosalinda)	2:00 pm
March 25	Bible Study Vision Team Meeting	10:00 am 7:00 pm
March 28	Men's Prayer Breakfast	8:30 am
March 30	Newsletter deadline	
March 31	Session Meeting	7:00 pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Beginning in January we have begun recording the entire service. This is now proceeding quite well. If you get a chance, listen to a service online. If you have comments or suggestions, please let us know.

We have decided to proceed with having two A/V operators at each service. We will need at least five volunteers to make this work efficiently. If you are interested in operation of Powerpoint and/or audio, please let us know.
office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca

Please remember our upcoming services:

Sundays in Lent, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 9

Good Friday April 10

Easter Sunday April 12

Anniversary May 25

Stampede July 12

Stay tuned for some changes to our worship services, probably coming in the fall. As a result, now is a great time to let us know what you might like to see. 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.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That each week the bulletin is uploaded to our website, along with a media recording of the service and our newsletter each month. This means if you had to miss a service you can listen to it on your computer. Now, it's not an excuse to "tele-church" but a way to keep up if you can't make it!

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please ensure the office has your email address. You can send your address to office@centennialchurch.ca.

Carla Zacharias will be away from the office from March 20—30. If you have any announcements for the bulletin for March 22, please have them into the office by March 18. Rev. Kim will look at any announcements for March 29, so please send them to the office email.

April Newsletter submission deadline is March 30.

THE MISSION TEAM

Our refugee family were very tired after their long two day trip, but so happy to see their friends and family. They spent their first two months in Calgary with family. This way, they had familiar people in their lives as they learned about the many changes and new things they had to learn. They were introduced to some typical Calgary weather with some above zero and some below temperatures, as well as some snow. The children are enjoying the weather but the adults not so much.

The brother-in-law, Ojunnie, arrived on December 12th, with family, friends and Mission team members at the airport to greet him. His exams and paperwork did not get done, in Kenya, at the same time as the rest of his family. He therefore, had to travel separately.

The refugee family, along with Omed and his family, Anyuak members and Mission team members spent the next couple of months getting all their necessary government paperwork done. They also started looking for housing, doctors, bank and bank accounts and schools for the children. A draw from the refugee bank account was given to the family so they can buy necessary items such as a cell phone. The children will be going for assessments for school in mid-January. One of the twins, broke her arm ,jumping on a bed in the first week that they were in Calgary. A busy time for everyone.

Some of the mission team members have been working on the paperwork for our second sponsored family. Things are proceeding quite well. We have also started finding and collecting new and "in kind" furniture and items for this family.

The mission team headed the shoebox initiative in November, as well as the mitten tree and white gift Sunday in December. We would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in supporting these events.

Also, a large fundraiser is planned for April 11t.h

Pat & Okelo

FROM THE SESSION:

Don't forget our Annual General Meeting being held today, March 1st following a light lunch after the morning service.

Our regular Presbytery Visitation (usually once every 3years) will be held on **Tuesday, March 10th** at the Church. The General Presbyter along with some Presbytery members will meet with the Minister, Session, Board and any interested members to assess the health and well-being of our congregation. The meeting schedule is:

5:30 PM - meet with Rev. Kim

6:30 PM - meet with the Session

7:30 PM - meet with the Board

8:00 PM - meet with members of the congregation

The Session has confirmed its understanding of marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman which is the traditional viewpoint regarding marriage.

We are also looking to put together a team of elders, board members and congregants as an action and stewardship group to address issues such as communication, stewardship and cohesiveness.

The Centennial "Coldest Night of the Year" campaign raised \$1378 for CUPS, KAIROS and the Feed the Homeless program. We had 6 walkers and 2 volunteers this year. Thanks to all who contributed.

Session concurred with the worship committee recommendation that we try having the Family Time celebrations at the end of the Children's Time, before they go to Sunday School. It will be easier to hear them when they mention birthdays. Feedback will be welcomed.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE ...

Bulletin Bloopers

The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth With Joy".

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The Rev. Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

PEWS NEWS

Please keep the following in your prayers: Steve Rajan and family; Michael and Belinda Ngedi and family with their son Benjamin who remains in hospital; Sam & Christian Kiplagat who are expecting their first baby this month, the Chesami family as they deal with the loss of Cletus' mom.

Happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month:

Romeo Enyeawah, March 9
Shirley Bates March 11

If you would like your birthday or anniversary acknowledged, please email the dates to the office for inclusion in the newsletter.

Please look over the directory of the Annual Report to ensure that your entry is correct. If there are any corrections, please let Carla know.

Check the coat rack in the narthex to see if you have left anything behind. There are two scarves, two pairs of shoes, an umbrella, toque, child's grey jacket and a car seat.

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 World Day of Prayer 3:30 pm
8 Confirmation Class 5:30-7:00 pm	9	10	11 Bible Study 10:00 am Board Meeting 7:00 pm	12 Mission 7:00 pm	13	14
15 Food Bank Sunday Confirmation Class 5:30-7:00 pm	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:00 am Youth Group 7:00 pm	19 Mission 7:00 pm	20	21 CCWF 10:00 am
22 Intergenerational Service Clifton Manor 2:00	23	24	25 Bible Study 10:00 am Vision Team Meeting 7:00 pm	26 Mission 7:00 pm	27	28 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
29	30	31 Session 7:00 pm				