

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
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IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Msings	1
Prayer Calendar	1
Notes from the Loft	2
Worship Committee	2
Pews News	2
Upcoming Events	2
FISH Network	3
Christmas Shoeboxes	3
From the Office	3
Session	4
Board	4
On the Lighter Side	4

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Advent Hope

This season of Advent that we began [last Sunday](#) is a time of waiting. It is a time between times – our liturgical calendar ended last week with the resurrected Christ ushering in God's full realm, and in just 3 weeks we will celebrate God bursting into time in the babe, Jesus of Bethlehem. So, in these 3 weeks in between, we are, as it were, in gestation – awaiting a new beginning of the whole cycle again.

So, what is this time for? During Advent, we focus on waiting, waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, and during the week before [Christmas](#) our waiting changes to waiting for our celebration of the birth of Jesus. What keeps the wild hope of Advent alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hope is the confidence that the child born so long ago in Bethlehem may yet be born again even in us, in our church, in our community, in our nation.

Still hardships remain, still the world is violent, still the Covid-19 is around. But things are different. And the light that broke brilliantly into the world in Jesus Christ glimmers. It bursts forth in the most unexpected of places, and never can the darkness put it out. God calls us to hope, not in what we can conceive, but in what God surely has in store for us and for our world. As Advent people, we wait in hope, hope-filled expectation of the coming of God's reign that God is going to raise up a mountain from the flatlands of our broken world and broken lives.

In the meantime, we slow down and wait. Henri Nouwen said, "Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting." Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Romans 8:22-25 resonates with Nouwen: "Waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting". During a time of waiting, God is vibrantly at work within us (Luci Shaw).

So, we look forward to [Christmas](#) with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who fills us with the best gift of [Christmas](#). That gift is the gift of Jesus Christ, the gift of Hope. May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



PRAYER CALENDAR

If you have any prayer concerns that arise, please contact the office and we can include these in our prayer chain. If you would like to be part of our prayer chain, please contact the office and have your name added to the list. Updates will be given via text or email as is suitable for you.

Do you wonder how you can reach out to others in the congregation? Every day on the prayer calendar is a person or family to pray for that day. Look them up in the directory and give them a quick call to say hello! It's a small gesture that could go a long way.

Newsletters will continue to be emailed, for those who do not have email addresses or have not provided one a physical copy of the newsletter will be mailed.

January Newsletter submission deadline is December 29.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

This is the season that the choir has always looked forward to. Great music for celebrating Advent and Christmas. We usually start our seasonal music in October, just to be ready for the end of November.

Doug Zacharias will be home for the Christmas holidays!

Here are some links to some Christmas music for you to listen to if you like.



[Beautiful Christian Christmas Songs 2020 Playlist - Top 100 Praise and Worship Songs Collection - YouTube](#)
[Top Christian Christmas Worship Songs 2020 - Best Christmas Hymns 2020 Music - Christian Christmas® - YouTube](#)
[3 Hours of Christmas Music | Traditional Instrumental Christmas Songs Playlist | Piano & Orchestra - YouTube](#)

Carla Zacharias
Music Team Leader

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

As we age time seems to go faster and faster. It's been suggested it's like a stone rolling downhill. Advent is upon us, in fact when you read this we will already have celebrated the first Sunday in Advent.

Upcoming special services include:

- ♦ Advent II December 5 – Mitten Tree Service
- ♦ Advent III December 12 – White Gift Sunday
- ♦ Advent IV December 19 – Children's Pageant
- ♦ December 24 – Christmas Eve

We will be doing the Mitten Tree and White Gifts a bit differently this year. We ask you to bring your mittens/gifts the week preceding the event so that there is less congestion during the services. More details will be published in the weekly announcements.

The difficulty in obtaining a reasonably priced video camera that meets our needs remains. Our needs include WiFi connectivity and audio input so that we connect to our sound system, so many of the available cameras do not meet our needs. Once up and running, videos of our services will be posted to our website and available on our YouTube channel for those who cannot or are unwilling to be at worship.

Fortunately we have found a solution to many of the problems we had with the audio/video computer so a replacement is not necessary at this time.

As always, we value your input on all matters pertaining to worship. Please direct your comments to us at office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca

Jim Broadwell
Chairman, Worship Committee

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in December!

December 5, Godfrey Phillip; December 7, Val Singh; December 10, Shirley Watts; December 12, Carolyn Taylor; December 15, Fred Pauls; December 16, Heather Bonar, Princejayden Enyeawah; December 29, Florian Arguilles; December 30, Otto Bender, Simon deVries, Alenwi Ayongwa

Anniversaries to celebrate in December!

December 26, John & Lynn Bradford, Doug & Marilyn Bonar

Please keep Reid McPhee in your prayers as he recovers at the Fanning Centre, and the Zacharias family as Doug prepares to donate stem cells to his brother in a life saving treatment.

REQUEST FOR WINTER HELP

Shirley Mittoo is looking for someone who may be able to help her with her sidewalks this winter. Please contact the office for more information if this is something you can help with. She lives just on Rundlehorn Drive, just off of 52nd street if that helps in your decision making.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5	Mitten Tree
December 12	White Gift Sunday
December 19	Pageant
December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm



THE FISH NETWORK

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

FISH Network mission, Ephesians 4:15-16

FISH Network: Friendship Inspiration Sharing Hospitality

The **FISH Network** looks forward to continuing dinners together at our Family Nights in the new year. Details will be provided when the dates are determined.

At our November **FISH Network** meeting, discussion included the importance of staying connected with one another, especially with those confined to their residences. Here is an activity that everyone can participate in! How about using the monthly prayer calendar to keep in touch with one another? One phone call each day! Call the name/family on the calendar. Let them know you were thinking of them and praying for them. The annual report church directory is a great reference for phone numbers. If you do not have an electronic or hard copy of the directory, please call the church (403 285-7144). Reaching out in **friendship**. Doesn't that feel wonderful?!

In addition, please feel welcome to contact our **FISH Network** -- Annie Edie, Carla Zacharias, Israel Ayongwa, Jean Tupper, Jin Woo Kim, Phyllis Russell, Shirley Watts, Simon DeVries. If you are uncertain how to reach us, please call Centennial Presbyterian Church (403 285-7144) or reference your annual report church directory.

We are all working together to experience and embrace the joy of **FISH: Friendship, Inspiration, Sharing, Hospitality**.

Best wishes
FISHes for a Merry Christmas!

The FISH Network

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

The response to the shoeboxes has been amazing! Thank you so much for your generosity. On November 21, we dedicated **38 boxes!**



FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours:

Rev. Kim's office hours: Tuesday—Friday, 10:00—4:00

Carla will be in the church office Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00–12:00 and Fridays from 9:30—12:00.

If you have **upcoming birthdays and anniversaries** you would like us to celebrate as we do every Sunday, please send the dates to office@centennialchurch.ca or call Carla Zacharias and we will get them in for celebrating.

Just a quick reminder, please remember to write "**Envelope Secretary**" on your envelope when mailing in your offerings. Offering envelopes are counted the last Monday of each month.

SESSION NOTES:

Our regular meeting was shortened due to technical issues and we will be meeting again next Tuesday, December 7th.

Communion will not be served at the December 5th and December 24th services due to Covid protocols.

The December 24th Evening Service will not have pre-registration but will have an overflow area set up downstairs with the service shown on the screen using the Zoom platform. This is necessary because our current capacity in the sanctuary is 60 people under our Covid restrictions. Once the capacity is reached the next people arriving will be directed downstairs where seating will be arranged.

Currently our average attendance is close to 60 people with about 45 upstairs and 12-14 downstairs with the Sunday School.

The Sunday School is recording a Christmas Pageant that will be shown onscreen at the Dec. 19th service.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

FROM THE BOARD:

SNOW!

Yes it is that time of year when we have to be ready to shovel the white stuff. Last year the Board looked into hiring a Snow Removal Company but it was cost prohibitive, so we are again relying on volunteers.

We are responsible for the walkway that runs behind the church across to the Leisure Centre parking lot.

There is an **"Opportunity Sheet"** (sign up sheet) in the narthex waiting for your signature for a week you can pick when you would be ready and able to shovel. You can call Tony Singh to volunteer, or the church office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and have Carla add your name to the list.

Nominations for new board members will be presented at the annual meeting. Generally we ask you to serve a 3 year term. Speak to any current Board member if you are interested.

Currently the **Board** is looking at restructuring with the idea to reduce our monthly meetings to bi-monthly. To do this we will likely divide into "interest groups" which would have some autonomy to make decisions within their area of interest. If you are interested in serving on one of these sub groups, speak to Gwyn or Pride,

FINANCES: As we are all aware, Covid 19 has played havoc with much of our lives. Our church income has suffered as well. We still had many of our regular expenses to pay such as salaries and utilities. We are grateful to all those who kept up their offerings throughout 2020-2021. Remember to put Centennial on your Christmas gift list.



FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of October 31, 2021)

Overall Financial Status (to above date)

Revenue	\$ 79,808
Expenditures	\$122,620
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$42,812)

Sources of Revenue

Offering	\$65,181
Rent	\$ 840
Gov't Subsidy	\$13,787

PCC Investment Update (as of September 30, 2021)

The 2021/Q3 report from our investment have been received. The earnings for Q3 are \$4,035. This compares to \$3,183 for the same period in 2020.

	2020	2021
Q1	\$3,071	\$2,757
Q2	\$1,721	\$3,123
Q3	\$3,183	\$4,035

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Church Bulletin Bloopers

- ♦ The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- ♦ The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done
- ♦ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- ♦ Ushers will eat latecomers.
- ♦ The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

- ♦ During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
- ♦ Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- ♦ Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- ♦ The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- ♦ The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.
- ♦ Next Thursday, there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.