

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Christmas has a lot to do with home. The songs, "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas," make us think of times around the Christmas tree where "faithful friends who are dear to us will be near to us once more."

You know, the image of home is all over the Christmas story in the Bible. Joseph and Mary traveled for that first Christmas. They had to go to Joseph's family's hometown. The tiny village of Bethlehem in Judea. And that is where Jesus was born. In a sense, Joseph could have said, "I'll be home for Christmas."

But what about baby Jesus? Jesus left his home in heaven. Temporarily sacrificing the kind of union, He had known with the Father throughout all eternity. The Father too would feel and notice the change in the way things had always been.

The Son came to earth as a baby. Vulnerable. Little. Helpless. Imagine this. The caregiver subjected himself to needing constant care. The Creator Himself willingly dwelt bodily inside the form of that which he had created. To be our salvation. To give His life for ours. To call us home.

Are you going home for Christmas? An odd question when you realize that the One, we tout as "the reason for the season" created Christmas precisely by not being home. Christmas is about the homelessness of the Word. Christmas is about the One who knows

as keenly as anyone ever has what it means to have a longing for home, to have reason to feel displaced. "He was in the world. He made every person in the world, but they didn't give him the time of day." That's what Christmas is all about.

Are you going home for Christmas? He didn't. The Word of God did not go home for Christmas but created Christmas by letting himself get exiled from home. One time Jesus would say, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it weren't so I would have told you." (John 14:2)

He was telling us about home. Not just his home, but ours. A place with many rooms for many people that really does exist.

And quite simply, here lies the message of Christmas:

Jesus left His home to remind us, we're not home yet.

That's the point. That's the message of Christmas.

Where will you be this Christmas? With family? With friends? Maybe working. Maybe even alone.

The words of one song say,

"Are you far away from home

This dark and lonely night?

Tell me what would best help

To ease your mind.

Someone to give

Direction for this unfamiliar road

Or one who says, "Follow me

And I will lead you home." (

"Christmas Lullaby" by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton)

If you feel like you'll only be home for Christmas in your dreams, just remember this. Jesus left His home to remind us, that none of us is really home yet.



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

A heartfelt thank you to the members of our choir for working hard to present a choral offering twice a month.

Our practices are held at 12:00 pm after the church service on Sundays so that an extra trip doesn't have to be made to the church during the week for rehearsals.

We have a quick rehearsal at 10:00 am the morning of our presentation to warm up and work out any last minute kinks.

We are excited to have Doug Zacharias back in action to help guide us through learning our music as well.

If you enjoy singing, we would love to have you join our choir! Please speak to me, after church, during the week, email me, whatever mode of communication works for you and I will answer any questions you may have.

In January we are hoping to start up a Junior Choir, which will meet after the church services the opposite weeks of the adult choir. This will be separate from the Sunday School and will work on their own music to present to the congregation. More information will be forthcoming to the parents of the Sunday School children.

If you play an instrument and would like to play for the congregation during the offering or postlude, or would like to be part of a small musical group, please reach out and let me know. We would love to have more musical participation in our services.



Carla Zacharias
Music Team Leader

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are back to regular worship. It is great to see everyone again.

As you are aware, we value your feedback on all aspects of worship. We have continued with the pre-service hymn sing having received no feedback. Please let us know whether it's a good or bad idea. You can communicate with either Jim Broadwell or the church office.

We are into the Advent season. Upcoming services include:

Advent II – December 4, Mitten Tree story for Children's Cottage

Advent III – December 11, White Gifts for Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre

Advent IV – December 18, Pageant

Christmas Eve – December 24

Christmas Day – December 25

Please mark your calendars for next year. January 7. 5:30 pm will mark the return of our Epiphany pot luck. We are going to have lots of fun. Those of you who have been to the parties in the past know this to be true. Plan to come and share your favourite dish and hear stories of Christmas celebrations in various cultures.

As we fast approach the close of the year we begin thinking of plans for the new. If you have a passion for matters of worship and would like to join the committee, please let us know. Our meetings are quite informal and we are flexible in determining dates and times.

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who participated in this year's shoebox initiative.

Our totals this year are:

<u>Girls</u>		<u>Boys</u>	
2-4	3	2-4	6
5-9	10	5-9	9
10-12	9	10-12	5



for a grand total of 42 shoesboxes donated. Thank you!

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in December (and a couple missed from November)

November 29, Doug Bonar, Brad Kriwoken, Loveline Emeh;
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, Alenwi Ayongwa, Simon deVries, Otto Bender

Anniversaries to celebrate in December

December 27, John & Lynn Bradford, Doug and Marilyn Bonar

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3	CCWF, 11:00 am, zoom
December 4	Mitten Tree Sunday
December 7	Family Night Dinner
December 11	White Gift Sunday
December 17	Youth Caroling/Christmas Party 2:00 pm
December 18	Sunday School Pageant
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Communion
December 25	Christmas Day
January 7	Epiphany Party Potluck, 5:30 pm

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours:

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

Carla will be in the church office Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30—12:00, and working from home on Tuesdays, 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.

*** **ANNUAL DIRECTORY UPDATES:** Does it seem too soon? Not really. In order to get our address, phone numbers and new family members updated, I am collecting that information now. If you would like your family photo included in the directory, as well, check last year's directory and see if your family has changed and the photo needs to be updated, please email a copy to office@centennialchurch.ca for inclusion. ***If you have had an address or phone number change, or additions to the family, please send that in to the office so that the directory and in-house database can be updated.*** ***

CCWF

I would like to say thanks a million to all our ladies/men who have signed up and are doing a fabulous job at our coffee and fellowship hour. You are Centennial Champions and I most graciously thank you.

Please note that our monthly meetings have moved to online Zoom for the Winter season so that we do not have to fight the harsh winter to get to church on Saturday morning for only an hour.

For some of our ladies who unfortunately cannot access Zoom, we will make sure you receive the minutes of the meetings. Likewise ladies, should you have something that you would like to say, please send it to our secretary (Sally) or myself and we'll make sure your voice is heard.

Phyllis Russell



Wednesday, December 7

Doors open at 5:00 pm Dinner served at 5:30 pm Pre-registration required



DID YOU KNOW?

- ♦ The Food Bank box at the back of the Sanctuary is managed by the Mission Team. At Centennial we have dedicated the 3rd Sunday of each month as Food Bank Sunday, to create a focused time for giving. During the last week, the donations are taken to The Veteran’s Food Bank by one of the team members. There is usually an announcement the preceding week as a reminder that it is coming up.
- ♦ During Communion, Lent, Advent and other special Sundays of the year you will notice that there are banners that hang in the church. These were made over the years by the women’s group and help us to celebrate and acknowledge the various special days.
- ♦ When you park in the church parking lot, have you ever thought it would be a great idea to have a nice, close parking spot in front of the dumpster enclosure? If it happens during the week and the garbage truck comes, it wouldn’t be able to access the garbage. That means they have to come back and it is at an additional cost to the church. Maybe park a little further away and take advantage of the nice, fresh air!
Is there something you are wondering about at Centennial? Send a message to the office and it will be answered in the next newsletter!

Remember, Many hands make light work!

SESSION

The service on Sunday, December 18th will be a joint service with the Anyuak Ministry with a potluck lunch to follow. The children’s Christmas pageant will combine both Sunday Schools.
Priorities and committee set up was discussed to try to overcome the lack of volunteers.
A set of clear (and measurable) goals and objectives are being looked at for a stewardship committee before initiating a membership call.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

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 deadline is December 28.



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.

Ephesians 4:15-16

FISH Network: Friendship Inspiration Sharing Hospitality

What a wonderful time of year to be exchanging a heartfelt greeting, best wishes . . . and Merry Christmas! The **FISH Network** encourages you to reach out to your fellow worshippers beyond Sunday at church. Reach out in **f**riendship. Call. Text. Email. (Reference the annual report directory for names and numbers.) Let your fellow parishioners know that you are thinking of them – especially at this time of year.

The **FISH Network** is pleased to announce that our **FISH** Family Nights will continue in 2023. We're simplifying the evening. No volunteers required. Dinner will be served. All that's needed is your family!

And so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." Luke 5:10 (NIV)

Your family is invited to join our ongoing **FISH Family Nights** for dinner the first Wednesday of each month. With the Epiphany potluck scheduled for January 7, the first Family Night dinner of 2023 will be February 1. Doors to the church will open at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Gather around the tables. **S**hare in conversation and **f**riendship. Enjoy the **h**ospitality!

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Mark 6:41 (NIV)

The **FISH Network** is uncertain if we can replicate Mark 6:41! (Actually, we are certain we can't!) Registration for Family Night dinner is required. You will be reminded to please register via email (watch your in box) or hard copy (available at the church) or 403 285-7144 (to call the church) by January 29 -- we want to ensure the appropriate amount of food is provided! February 1 menu is pizza (a family favourite), salad, ice cream sandwiches.

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.

Best wishes
Best ~~FISHes~~ for a Merry Christmas!

The FISH Network

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The youth group are meeting at Centennial at 2:00 PM on Saturday December 17th to do some caroling to spread the Christmas joy, before their Christmas party that will start at about 5:00 PM at the Church, with food, games, and fellowship.



FROM THE BOARD

1. Funding initiative: The Board and Session agreed to request extra funds from the congregation as we find ourselves in a bit of a funding crunch. The Board has had to withdraw funds from our Investment to pay some of our expenses. To avoid withdrawing more funds everyone is asked to make an extra donation. Details are in the weekly bulletin or for more information, speak to a Board member. A question has been asked as to whether these monies are tax deductible. The answer is, absolutely.....as long as you put the funds in your numbered envelope so it can be recorded. Our thanks to those who have donated so far. We will have a financial up-date in mid-December.

2. Budget 2023: the Board will be putting together the 2023 budget in early January. It is essential that if your group or committee needs funding for 2023 that you make your request known to the Board as soon as possible. This way the budget can be formulated to accurately reflect our needs.

3. Envelopes: 2023 envelopes will be available soon, If you are using e-transfer exclusively and no longer need envelopes, please contact the envelope secretary Francis Djakan (envelopesecretary@centennialchurch.ca) or speak to Board chairman, Gwyn Crowe.

Gwyn Crowe
Interim Chair

FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of October 31, 2022)

Overall Financial Status (to above date)

Revenue	\$73,656.17
Expenditures	\$119,423.87
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$45,767.70)

Sources of Revenue

Offering	\$71,860.11
Rent	\$ 325.00
Gov't Subsidy	\$ 1,471.06

PCC Investment Update

The 2022/Q3 report from our investment has been received. There was a loss of \$10,506.44 this quarter. This compares to a gain of \$4,035.22 for the same period in 2021. *This loss was attributed by the Fund Manager to a transition of the funds bond portfolio from "segregated funds" to "pooled funds"*.

A related communication about the investment is that the PCC's record keeping will be transitioned to an outside service provider (Harmony) starting in January 1, 2023 to automate the portfolio accounting system and bring it up to industry standards.

