

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
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Minister's Musings

Let us press on

Happy New Year! I believe that one of the ways God is gracious to us is by providing us chances to start over. To start fresh. To become again a new creation in Christ. And every year, we get a fresh new calendar filled with blank pages, 12 months, 365 days, or if we're lucky, 366, waiting to be filled with meaningful memories – a fresh start. Grace!

Isn't time a mysterious entity? I'm amazed that I've experienced 61 new year's days' - time has sped by so quickly. For children, of course, the time has a different quality: for them, eternity is the period between birthdays. I wonder how we'll do this year. Will we be as busy? Will we make any better use of our time? In 365 days, when the year is over, will we be looking back with joy, or with regret? Will we be looking at the future with anticipation, or with dread?

What we need to remember is that a life worth living requires focus. We must keep the purpose in view. Recently I read the biography of one of the great Christian Missionaries

of all times, William Carey. He said that if there is only one thing that he wanted to be remembered for, it was that he was nothing special. He had no special intelligence, but when people wondered how he and his team of two others translated the Scriptures into forty languages it wasn't because they were greatly gifted. He said it was because they were the ones who could press on. He called himself a plodder who was one who continually had the goal of becoming more like Christ.

That is what we are called to in the Christian life. We all need to know that God has called us for a purpose and we only realize our purpose when we keep our eyes fixed on Christ and press on. We need to become plodders and press on. We need to keep our eternal perspective. To grow in Christ will require commitment. It is going to mean a commitment to Bible Study. It is going to mean service in the local church. Pressing on in Christ will require a commitment to prayer. It requires discipline to grow spiritually. When they ran the race in those ancient games, they would take the victors prize of a wreath and put it at the finish line. So, for those who were running the race, they could see the prize before them. It would motivate them to run in a way in which they might win. The goal of becoming more like Jesus Christ is before us. We see Jesus Christ and his life in the Scriptures. We have this goal before us of becoming more like Jesus, for Paul, that was his great

all-consuming goal. If our goal is to be more like Jesus Christ, then how can we reach that goal? For Paul, the main purpose of his life was to press on in Jesus Christ. For him everything related to the goal of being more like Christ. We need to remember this when we get discouraged and when we wonder if it is worth it to press on. We have troubles and our world seems to cave in. Is it all worth it? The answer is yes. Those are the times we are called to press on. We are to be more like Christ and continue to look ahead to the finish line. Let us press on that we have our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ and the goal of becoming more like him.



As newsletters are being emailed at this time, for those who do not have email addresses or have not provided one a physical copy of the newsletter will be mailed.

February Newsletter submission deadline is January 27.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT



Normally at this time of year, we are planning music for the new year and panicking at how close Lent and Easter are! Ash Wednesday is February 17 this year! It's funny how we are barely done the Christmas season and we start up rehearsing music for Lent. It will be different still for a while.

In January I always look forward to our Epiphany party where we hear stories of Christmas traditions from around the world and then sing that person's favourite Christmas hymn or carol, and some of the reasons why it is their favourite.

I hope that some of you will share with Jim some recordings of your traditions so that we can share them virtually this year.

Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3 Communion via Zoom at 11:00 am
January 10, 17, 24, 31 Virtual Coffee Hour

Meetings:

January 20 FISH Network at 7:00 pm
January 26 Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:00 pm
Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

It seems sad but somehow fitting that 2020 went out with a whimper rather than a bang. We're all glad to get the tragedy and loss of the pandemic mostly over with. I know we're not out of the woods yet but there certainly is light and hope ahead. Virtual worship will continue for a time, but we can begin to look at reopening with some certainty although any forecast of an actual date is premature. We continue to value your input on all matters pertaining to worship both virtual and physical. Please direct your comments to us at office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca

Virtual communion services are continuing and appear to have been well received by the participants. While we realize they are poor cousins to 'in-person' celebrations I believe we still can be uplifted in the joining together in the sharing of the bread and cup virtually.

We are pleased that the reinforcement of the wall in the sanctuary was accomplished at a far lower cost than many of us feared. Unfortunately a casualty of the repair is a beam bisecting our rear screen. In the new year we will be looking at alternatives for a new location. Stay tuned for further updates.

As we contemplate a date for returning to worship in the sanctuary, we will be revisiting the concept of video recording the entire service. We already have volunteers to help with this and will be contacting them with preparation and implementation plans as the timeline for restarting becomes a reality.

Please continue to let us know your upcoming family celebrations so that we can acknowledge them in the announcements.

We continue with virtual coffee time at 11:00 am each Sunday. If you have difficulty with joining, please call Jim Broadwell at (403) 285-2976 for help.

Jim Broadwell
Chairman, Worship Committee

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in January!

January 1, James Bol, Chris Johnson; January 5, Abongwi Ayongwa; January 8, Melanie Tibui; January 9, Rev. Kim; January 10, Portia Falgui, Charlotte Chesami; January 13, Linda Tynan; January 15 Cherilen Arguilles; January 17, Riley Belyea, Barry Anung; January 21, Kendell Fusianka-a; January 31, Paul Kim

Anniversaries to celebrate in December!

January 3, Rev. Kim and Centennial

Please keep Priscilla Towers in your prayers as she entered the Peter Loughheed Hospital on December 20.

One of our senior members, Elmira Chepeskie, resides at Age Care Skypointe and they are currently experiencing a covid outbreak. Please keep Elmira, her family and the rest of the residents and their families during what must be an anxious time in your prayers.

Please continue to keep each other in prayer.

FROM THE SESSION:

There was no Session meeting in December and our next meeting will be a zoom meeting on January 5, 2021. We wish all a very Happy New Year and that the Lord be with us all as we move into the new year.

For the Mission portion of the newsletter:

Three bags containing a total of 164 sets of mittens, hats, scarves, head bands and ear muffs were delivered to the Children's Cottage from our Mitten Tree Service. They were very appreciative.

Staff at the Pregnancy Care Center were very thankful for the large number of White Gifts that were donated by Centennial. When asked how donations were going, they said that it was better than expected. A lady came in earlier in the week and donated a large sum of money in gift cards. When they checked name and address to send a thank you they realized she had been a client a few years ago and wanted to give back to the center that had supported her.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

FROM THE OFFICE

Due to the current restrictions as of the end of December, Carla's in office hours will be Friday from 9:30-12:00. At home office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-12:00.

Rev. Kim will in the church office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30—4:00.

The **Today magazines** are in! Pop by anytime during office hours (↑) to pick yours up!

The **Daily Bible Reading Guides for 2021 from the Canadian Bible Society** are in and are available for pickup.

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.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR!

Our Virtual Coffee hour continues! It is an easy way to connect with others from the congregation. You can stay for five minutes, half an hour, an hour! Come say hi!

January 3 will be our Communion service. Please follow the same steps as for our coffee hour. The information is below.

The information you need is:

11:00 am on January 10, 17, 24, 31 (if the service goes long, or your coffee isn't quite ready, just jump on the call when you can!) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83259579765?pwd=Ri9JTUorNFRKeWNDUlpUK2xUQWREQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 5957 9765 Passcode: 369315 One tap mobile +1 647 374 4685 .. 83259579765#

If you have any difficulties, please contact Jim Broadwell and he can talk you through it.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Random Acts of Kindness

We have received a few stories of Random Acts of Kindness!

In the middle of a pandemic and this wonderful snow storm I just saw the most wonderful thing. There was a city bus stuck in the snow on Temple drive NE. The bus had been there since 7:15am. The driver you could see getting bored of waiting for help. The two neighbours were out shoveling their driveway and a truck 4X4 went by then came back and between the four people they pulled the bus out in twenty minutes.

Our son in law and daughter did some baking and shared it with her parents. Jim and Colleen .

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

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.



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

Future **FISH Network** meetings will include opening with a devotion. Random acts of kindness (as well as deliberate acts) were shared at our December 2020 meeting. We continue to consider meaningful ways to engage the congregation in various programs. As the programs are developed, we will introduce them to you.

We encourage you to continue to reach out to one another -- and we'll continue reaching out to you. Please feel welcome to contact our **FISH Network** -- Annie Edie, Carla Zacharias, 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 want to be a resource for you – one of Friendship, Inspiration, Sharing, Hospitality.

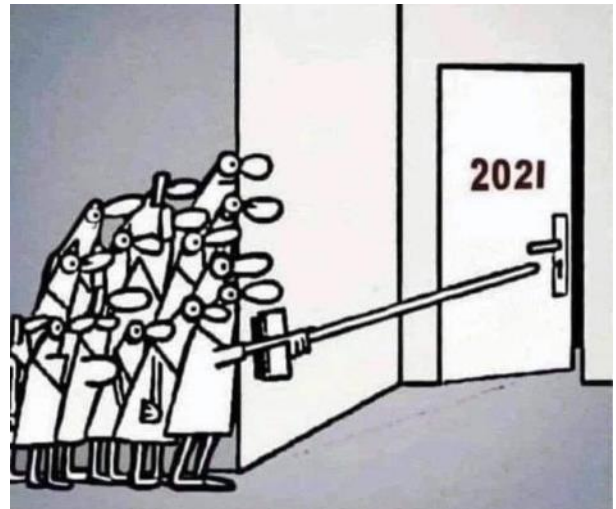
Best FISHes for 2021 - Happy New Year!

Jean Tupper and the FISH Network Team

Congratulations to Casey Chesami for receiving an award for Leadership in Humility.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



FROM THE BOARD

2020 has been one of the most interesting years in the last decade. Undoubtedly so because of the certainty in which it carried itself in spite our worries of what it should or ought to be. While we taunted it with every scientifically backed prognosis, the Lord seemed to have reminded us “to be still and know that i am God” and; lo, not even a hair fell off from the head of His servants at Centennial due to Corvid and for that and many other reasons, we can only say “thank you Lord”. It has not been by our individual smartness, strength or simply being more deserving but your grace has been more than sufficient.

Albeit “a thousand fell at our side, and ten thousand at your right hand, it never came near us. However, in a world where we as Christians strife to be each other’s keeper, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who have in one way or another been affected by the pandemic and leadership at Centennial continues to be compliant with government regulations which certainly, we believe, compliments the Lords resolve to bring back sanity into the affairs of His world, our world.

As crowns and thrones are perishing, kingdoms rising and waning, there’s no gainsaying that “the Church of Christ Constant will remain”; reason why The Board, jointly and severally has slowly and steadily been able to, in spite the current dispensation upped the ante. Members have taken upon themselves to treat the church as if they owned it; from unannounced grass mowing and snow shoveling, to managing projects like refurbishing the wall in the sanctuary, installing security systems or simply dropping by and making the church look occupied, safe and secured. Although few have the keys into the building, it is important members understand that simply stopping by and making a walk round the building is an invaluable gesture. With Covid vaccines or the balm from heaven beginning to sprout from whatever nook and crannies, the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming even apparent but also a moment not to get complacent as pundits still believe of darker days ahead. Be it as it may, at Centennial, we believe in the powers of prayers and call on all and sundry to fervently continue to go on their knees that the world can return to normalcy.

The Board continues to crave for members’ support for the church in whatever way possible be it in volunteering to shovel snow, financially, materially or otherwise. While it has been a tough year in every imaginable aspect, finances included, we trust in His providence and are confident to weather the storm with Christ in the vessel. A more comprehensive report of our financial situation shall preferably be made towards the end of February 2021 to incorporate everything. Have a wonderful holidays and Happy New Year.

Chairman of Board,

Pride Muma