

# CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

When we expect a long journey, we should be prepared! I am never without a writing instrument, and a little extra cash, just in case. But some folks don't care if their spare tire is flat, and never have an umbrella handy. The easy excuse for our moral failure is to blame somebody else, "The devil made me do it!" we often hear; but it's not really the devil's fault, that's his job, it's our fault for not being prepared to resist.

If we really want to serve God and to be used for His kingdom, we need to be prepared for our spiritual battle! Temptation is very real in our lives. Temptation is all around us. There are many apples out there that we could pick. Before Jesus was ready to begin his three-year public ministry there was something he had to deal with. Evil and the allure of temptation was the issue that Jesus seemingly had to resolve before he felt ready to go out and preach the gospel.

Although he was fully divine, he was also fully human and faced with the same temptations that we do. Matthew says that he was "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness. There he was alone. We

all need to be alone sometimes so that we can commune with God and think things through. And he did not register in a plush hotel. There was even nothing to eat or drink. The sacrifice and rough nature of the desert contributed to his ability to focus of the need to spiritually get ready for his great task that would lead to his cross and empty tomb.

In our spiritual journey, we are led into the wilderness. Wildernesses come in so many shapes and sizes that the only way you can really tell you are in one is to look around for what you normally count on to save your life and come up empty. It was necessary for Jesus to go into the wilderness. It is necessary for us also. Think of it this way. The wilderness isn't a fun place to be. You always end up feeling alone and exhausted.

You may not fast for 40 days, but you will often come to the end of all human resources. And you will feel like giving in and giving up. You will wonder why God has abandoned you. Nothing will make sense; all will seem confusing. But do not despair. Stand your ground. Remember the promises of God. Cling to the Lord. Do not turn back to the old way of life. Do not give in to your emotions. Lean on your brothers and sisters in Christ. God never leads us into the wilderness in order to destroy us. He intends the time of testing to make us stronger. Think of what you find in the desert.

Victory is here! Holiness is here! Spiritual growth is here! The Holy Spirit is here! Jesus is here! So stand your ground and do not give up. Remember that life is all about God. It's not about you. The wilderness isn't about you. It's all about God. Your temptations are not about you. They're all about God. Your spiritual journey isn't about you. It's all about God. Life isn't about your dreams, your agenda, your hopes, your ideas, or your plans. Life is all about God's dreams, God's agenda, God's ideas, and God's plans. It's his kingdom we're praying to come, not ours. So, stand strong in the moment of temptation, trusting that God will give you what you need when you need it.

Lent is a time of self-examination and renewal. During this time, we realise how weak we are when it comes to temptation and ask God to help us, to forgive us, renew us and make a new start. Lent is a time when we rejoice that God is a God of refreshment, of new life, of new beginnings. Our comfort and strength in every temptation is that Christ has already triumphed over temptation on the cross. Christ has won the victory for us.



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.

April newsletter deadline is March 29.

## NOTES FROM THE LOFT

We are working to have some special music over the next few months. If anyone plays an instrument, would like to sing either a solo or a small ensemble, please let me know and we can work out the details!



Carla Zacharias  
Music Team Leader

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We have two new volunteers for the A/V system. As we get the schedule finalized we will be providing additional information.

We are still working to get the video recording working in a satisfactory manner. If you can help in this area we would appreciate it.

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

Jim Broadwell  
Chairman

## CCWF

It has been a very good February, a huge thank you to everyone who has made it possible. The Black History Celebration with the amazing Camaroonian group was well attended. Thanks to all of you. The food and fashion show...Amazing.. you outdid yourselves...Amen.

Students, please remember to get your applications in for the grant. Deadline is May 1st, 2023. The ladies group CCWF appreciates all our coffee Fellowship stewards and we ALWAYS, always welcome new members. Please join us.

Phyllis Russell  
Chairwoman

## 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](mailto:office@centennialchurch.ca) or call Carla Zacharias and we will get them in for celebrating.

## PEWS NEWS

### ***Birthdays to celebrate in March***

*March 8, Shirley Mlttoo; March 9, Romeo Enyeawah; March 11, Shirley Bates; March 13, Kyrie Kiplagat; March 17, Bunglingo Ogwok.*

### ***Anniversaries to celebrate in March***

*March 22, Doug & Carla Zacharias (20); March 31, Gavin & Madison Mahabir.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4

CCWF, 11:00 am, zoom

March 5

Communion

Annual Meeting

March 10

Youth Group, 7:00 pm

March 16

FISH Network, 7:00 pm, zoom

March 18

All Teams Meeting, 10:00 am

March 19

Food Bank Sunday

March 28

Worship Committee, 11:00 am, church Session, 7:00 pm

## SESSION NOTES

- The Elder Election is underway with letters and ballots going out starting March 5<sup>th</sup> and with the ballots to be returned by March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> will also be a Reception of New Members Service. Please talk to Rev. Kim or an elder if you wish to become a voting member of Centennial.
- The Stewardship Committee has been established with Jean Tupper as Convener and Israel Ayongwa, Annie Edie, Omot Ochudo, Alan Christian and Rev. Kim as members.
- The Session has begun planning a Congregational Visioning Process to look at and plan for the future at Centennial. The hope is to involve as many people as possible to consider what Centennial can become. Saturday, May 13, 2023 has been set as the date. More information will be forthcoming.

The Presbytery Visitation Committee report is available on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex for anyone interested. There were seven recommendations:

1. That Session prioritize its commitment to meet with Rev. Kim to address stipend and work related concerns before the next budget.
2. That Session and Rev. Kim engage in a clear discussion about timing and succession as Rev. Kim nears his retirement eligibility.
3. That semi-annual joint meetings between the Board and Session are renewed.
4. That a plan for pastoral care training for elders be identified and implemented with clarification around expectations of pastoral contact by ruling elders and the minister. Support may be requested from the Clergy and Congregational Care Committee of the Presbytery or the National Office.
5. That Presbytery supply support with an assessment of Centennial's current equipment for use with Zoom meetings and with grant applications if updated equipment is required.
6. That Presbytery provide support with creating a building maintenance schedule and a plan for succession/training of new maintenance personnel as most maintenance is currently handled by one individual.
7. In the absence of a General Presbyter, that the Administration Committee offer direction to appropriate resources for support within the Presbytery to fulfill recommendations 5 and 6.

## FROM THE BOARD

From the Board - a few house-keeping items this time.

There are still some 2023 envelopes at the back. If you do not have yours, please pick them up.

OOPS!! someone has picked up envelope #79 by mistake! Please return to the church and give to Francis or to Gwyn and we will return them to their rightful owner.....do NOT use these envelopes. If you require envelopes. Speak to one of us and Francis will assign you a set to use.

If you are eager to serve on the Board for a 3 year term, be prepared to speak up at the Annual Meeting March 5. Our special fund-raiser has brought in \$4520.00. Although the poster will be gone soon, you can make an extra donation anytime by adding extra funds to your regular offering.

Gwyn Crowe  
Interim Chair

## 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.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

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 Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.



## 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

Our February meeting discussion included representation from the **FISH Network**, events and what items would be brought forward at the March 18 All-Teams meeting.

The team was reminded of the **FISH Network** guiding principles:

#### Friendship:

To encourage getting to know someone within the church community you do not know well.  
To further the development of meaningful relationships.

#### Inspiration

To develop a stronger commitment to year-round stewardship (volunteering).  
To create an ongoing environment of fresh initiatives, have fun, be creative.

#### Sharing

To strengthen internal communications within and among committees, teams, and ministries.

#### Hospitality

To help people feel welcome, knowledgeable about and included in our congregation.

To help coordinate activities involving hospitality and care ministries.

To provide a welcoming, accepting, comforting, supporting, caring environment for members, visitors, friends to enhance their worship experience.

Your **FISH Network** encourages you to continue to reach out to your fellow congregants. Let them know you are thinking of them. Feel inspired! Reach out in friendship. Call. Text. Email. The directory at the back of the annual report is a great reference for names and numbers.

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.

Experience the joy of **FISH: Friendship, Inspiration, Sharing, Hospitality**

### The FISH Network



