

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Through the life of Paul, I think, what God is showing is that we possess weaknesses that will not immediately go away, if ever, and that this shouldn't be the cause for frustration or despair. Instead, we learn that when we embrace and accept our weaknesses, they can be the means by which the power of God is displayed in all its glory, a power perfected in weakness.

Paul had a physical weakness. But Paul's calling itself was based on his weakness. He was an angry, violent young man. He says in 1 Timothy, "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence." But God called to him to be a reconciler. His calling was based on his Achilles heal, so to speak.

It seems to me that this is where ministry begins - no matter which flavor of Christian we happen to be. God wants to make us an example of his grace. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life."

God calls us to use our Achilles heel, where we limp most, to lead us through our natural weakness or woundedness of personality, to grow strong. Our weakness may be our greatest asset because it continually keeps before us our absolute dependence upon God."

What a difference this would make if all our churches engaged in ministry from this starting point. Maybe the greatest resources for the church and its work [today](#) will not be found in appealing to our strengths, but to our weaknesses, our brokenness. Maybe it's those places where the power of God can be witnessed, in the places of human suffering and crucifixion.

It's sort of like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, who all along had the power in her ruby slippers to return home to Kansas. So will we see that our strength can be found in the weaknesses we have had all along, maybe our whole lives, but failed to see them as having any value. Knowing that we have been gifted in our weakness will empower all of us to proclaim the gospel with greater love, conviction, honesty, integrity - and most of all - grace. The apostle Paul considered this and lived by it." And I pray that we consider this and live by it.

Jerry Cook was a pastor in Oregon. He had open-heart surgery and multiple bypasses. After he recovered, he visited a man who was facing the same prospect of bypass surgery. The man was afraid and said to Cook, "I want to see your scars." Jerry took off his shirt. The man traced with his finger the purple scar that ran down Jerry's chest. The man continued, "The doctor says the most painful part will be the surgery on my legs to remove veins from my calves. Can I see your legs?" Jerry rolled up his pant legs. The man got down on his knees, touching Jerry's scarred calves. When he rose to his feet, the man said, "Thank you. Now I have hope." (Jerry Cook, Some Things I Have Learned Since I Knew It All)



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.

June newsletter deadline is May 27.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

We will be looking to get the choir back together and prepare some anthems for the last few weeks of the season. I will be calling all previous members to check in and let them know when practices will resume.

Plans for a full season starting in the fall are underway!

If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact me, 403-285-9516, and let me know so I can give you all the information!

We are also looking for additional piano players as well as singers for the Praise Team. If this suits your interest and talents, please reach out to me.

The history of music in the church will continue in future newsletters.

Carla Zacharias
Music Team Leader



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are extremely grateful to God for the return to physical worship. It was a particular blessing to participate in Communion twice in April.

Upcoming services include Music Appreciation May 15 and Anniversary May 22. If Session approves we will be back to social time after the morning service and will have an anniversary cake.

We now have our video camera and we will be in contact with our A/V consultant for installation and operation instructions. 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.

The floodlights that illuminate the pulpit and front of the sanctuary have been upgraded to LED lights to give us long-term service with less operating cost and less heat.

We are thankful to Gwyn Crowe for filling in for two of the Sundays that Carla was away from the piano.

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

SESSION NOTES

At the Session meeting on April 26th the following was resolved and noted:

- ◆ There will be a **congregational meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2022** following the morning service to receive and approve the 2021 Financial Statements plus discuss and approve a budget for this year.
- ◆ Our Anniversary Sunday (47 years) is May 22nd and it will include a coffee fellowship time downstairs following the service. This is the first such fellowship time since the onset of the pandemic over 2 years ago and plans by the Worship Committee are for cake to be served.
- ◆ There will be no other changes to Covid protocols at this time with masking still being preferred along with social distancing. The children will still go directly downstairs for Sunday School.
- ◆ There has been no information regarding the arrival of our second refugee family. PWS&D have been emailing our embassy in Kenya for information but have not been getting any replies.
- ◆ The Synod of Alberta is considering its ability to continue funding Camp Kannawin as well as the position of Director of Regional Ministries that was recently held by Rev. Diane Ollerenshaw.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The Pastor came to visit the other day. He said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I am always asking myself: 'Now, what am I here after?'"

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours:

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

Carla will be in the church office Tuesdays, Thursdays 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.



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

It was decided our **FISH Network** Family Nights would resume in September. More information will be shared closer to the event. We were pleased to receive positive feedback from members of the congregation who have been inspired and are using the prayer calendar as a prompt to reach out and call or email those names appearing each day on the calendar. Have you called or sent an email? Have you received a call or email when your name was listed? If you've contacted those on the calendar – a big THANK YOU to you! We encourage you to join in this initiative and to reach out in friendship. Introduce yourself if it's someone who is unfamiliar to you. It only takes a call to become acquainted! The 'Centennial Hotspot' monthly newsletters are another opportunity for you to reach out and extend best wishes to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Use our annual report church directory as a reference for phone numbers. If you do not have an electronic or hard copy of the directory, please call the church (403 285-7144).

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

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in May

May 1, Richard Halliday; May 14, Phyllis Russell; May 15, Ama Oppong; May 16, Catherine Mbanwie; May 25, Charles Carter; May 29, Colleen Doyle;

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1	Communion
May 15	Music Appreciation Sunday Congregational Meeting, Financial Statements Food Bank Sunday
May 18	FISH Network 7:00 pm Zoom
May 22	Anniversary Sunday
May 31	Worship Committee, 4:00 pm

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.

