

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
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Minister's Musings

Wounded Healer

In 1979, Henri Nouwen, a Roman Catholic priest and prolific writer, who has since died, wrote a book called *The Wounded Healer*. In his book, Nouwen spoke about our human brokenness and the way that our wounds become a source of healing for others. One of Nouwen's themes was living our brokenness under God's blessing. In one interview, Nouwen said, "Many people ... don't think they are loved, or held safe, and so when suffering comes, they see it as an affirmation of their worthlessness. The great question of ministry and the spiritual life is to learn to live our brokenness under the blessing and not the curse." The wounded healer of which Nouwen writes is one who faces her own vulnerability, recognizes her weakness, and in that place of authenticity finds the strength to stand with others as part of the human family.

Jesus is God's wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus' suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus we can also allow our wounds to

teach us that God works through and beyond our own wounds. Why did Jesus keep his wounds? Because we will continue to be wounded and broken; and we will need to remember that even in our pain and struggle, God is with us, working in and through us. Could it be that after his resurrection Jesus' wounds were what drew his followers closer to him? Could it be that our own wounds are what draw us closer to each other in Christ's name?

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*)

What a difference this would make if all of 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 woundedness, our brokenness. Maybe it's those places where the power of God can be witnessed, in the places of human suffering and crucifixion.



PEWS NEWS

Please keep those members of our church family who are ill or in need in your prayers. Keep Val, Tony and Lovell Singh, Jennifer Legge, the Kumar family and Uvsha Geraldini in your prayers.

Birthdays to celebrate in October!

Jim Broadwell, October 5; Kwame Oppon, October 9; Lynn Bradford, October 11; Livanmond Matute, October 12; Ryan Christian, October 14.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

We continue to prepare music for our video service. With the start of school, scheduling has been a bit hectic, but now that we have a month under the belt, we can start recording with Bruce Watts again. Lauren has done a great job of stepping up and learning how to operate the recording unit, editing and preparing the hymns and instrumental music since Doug has started his new job in Abu Dhabi. Thanks to Bruce for making time to come record and to Lauren for taking on this task.



Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4, 11, 18, 25 Virtual Coffee Hour

Meetings:

Board Meeting, October 14, 7:00 pm @ church
CCWF, October 15, 11:00 am via Zomm
FISH Network October 21, 7:00 pm via Zoom
Worship Committee October 27, 4:00 pm via Zoom

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

We will be continuing with virtual worship for a while yet. Session is responsible for the decision to restart and their comments will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. 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

We have an exciting pandemic friendly plan to continue with our Mitten Tree and White Gift traditions for Centennial. Please watch the announcements in October for details on how we can continue our support for the worthy causes we endorse.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Annie Edie and Mary-Claire to our roster of readers for virtual worship.

Worship is much more than attending Sunday morning services or watching our weekly video. Among other things, worship includes, praying regular prayers of adoration to our Lord, performing deeds of kindness and compassion, giving back to the worshiping community with our tithes and offerings and giving of ourselves in voluntary service that supports us all. Please, if you are asked to participate in our worship services prayerfully consider accepting as you will be doing a worship service to the Lord and to your fellow members of Centennial. Even if you aren't asked directly, and there is a place where you feel you can contribute don't hesitate to let us know. Among the opportunities are:

1. Readers (both regular and for our Advent/Christmas season)
2. Video editors
3. PowerPoint preparers
4. PowerPoint operators
5. Audio operators

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 at (403) 285-2976 for help.

Jim Broadwell
Chairman, Worship Committee

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

God: Gabriel, have you finished setting up future events for the 2020's?

Gabriel: Yes, God, I hav-wait, did you say 2020's *plural*? As in the *decade*?

God: Of course, what else?

Gabriel: I thought you mean 2020, the YEAR!

God: You put a decade worth of history in one year?

Gabriel: ... yes

God: Well ... darn it.

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.

October Newsletter submission deadline is October 28.

FROM THE SESSION:

The committee to look into reopening concerns for live worship services at Centennial has met and is in the process of putting together a plan for procedures and changes needed to make this possible. The committee recommended, and Session concurred, that any reopening will not take place until active cases of the virus decline significantly. The committee is led by R. Crowe and J. Gerald of the Leading with Care committee and includes: Rev. Kim, A. Colina-Carter (Sunday School), P. Muma and T. Singh (Board of Managers), O. Aballa (Anyuak Ministry), J. Broadwell (Worship) and D. Bonar (Session). The results of the questionnaires returned (20) indicated safety was the main concern of congregants.

The Sanctuary wall behind the sound system has been opened by contractors to ascertain the scope of the problem with the wall bending outwards. The contractors are considering ways to remediate the problem and will be getting back to the Board with their recommendations and possible costs.

The Session approved holding a 'live' Zoom Communion Service on November 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM. The service will be led by Rev. Kim and all other participants will be muted to insure no distractions. Participants should have their elements of bread and juice ready prior to the service. More information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

There is a nice article in the Presbyterian Church in Canada Connections newspaper on the Centennial Refugee Project this month.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

FROM THE OFFICE

The **Today books for September/October** are in, as well as the new edition of the **Presbyterian Connection**. If you would like to pick yours up, Carla will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10:30-12:30 and Friday mornings from 9:30-12:00.

If your team is planning to hold a zoom meeting and you either need help, or would prefer the office to set it up, **please submit your zoom meeting information, including attendees, for the announcements and for setting up the call** to the office at office@centennialchurch.ca.

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.

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!

The information you need is:

11:00 am on October 4, 11, 18, 25 (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=Ri9JTUorNFRKeWNUUlpUK2xUQWREQT09>

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

Part of the Pastoral Care Team is the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. This ministry was started in 2008 and since then we have handed out 235 prayer shawls. That is the recorded number and I am sure there are several that went out and didn't make it in to the book. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from a shawl and the prayers and hugs that come with it, please contact your Elder or the office to make a request. We currently have a bit of a stockpile. The events can be ones of joy and celebration, or of need and support.

Assistance is available in many ways: coffee, a meal delivered, a ride to an appointment or groceries, please email the church office or the Pastoral Care Team, call the church (403-285-7144) or Carla Zacharias at home (403-285-9516) to request support.

We are always looking for people to join our Prayer Chain. Prayer concerns are shared with the people on the chain, only approved details are shared with the request for prayer.

October's challenge: Think about the people in our church and all the things they do and send them an email or a phone call to say "Thank you".

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

FROM THE BOARD:

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Ps 30:5. "When is night and when is morning, we may ask, but do we really need an answer? As followers of He who we profess in - Jesus Christ, we continue to say "may Thy will be done on earth as in heaven". As we tread through these difficult days, let us continue to trust on to Him who passes all understanding with faith and confidence.

It's been a while and though The Board was supposed to have been reaching out consistently, there isn't been that much of a variety apart from how best we can endure the present times. Our governments have been on top of their game and as they scan through our individual experiences day in and out, we are fed back with such empirical information that continues to be the bedrock of our very survival. We must continue to do that which is required of us as humans but also as prayerfully as the Christians we are. We, as a church are all faring well and that is what matters.

The "house of prayers for all nations" as one of us is fun of calling Centennial Presbyterian Church continue to rest on the solid foundation that is Christ. The Board is currently supervising some structural adjustment on the back wall in the sanctuary and will keep members posted with new developments. Our finances are not the best at the moment as we currently run a \$22,000,00 deficit but such is not abnormal given the times. Our deposit with Consolidated Portfolio got back to a positive during the 2Q but the waters still seem murky. We will continue to pray for more support and fervently call on each and every one of us to dig deeper into our pockets so we can cover both our deficit and the construction work going on which is yet to be financially assessed. We are hopeful the work will be done before gatherings are authorized which as we all have been hearing, is currently contemplated as evidenced in our schools resumption successes and as we individually abide by the rules.

As we continue to be steadfast and labour in Christ's vineyard, accept warm, felicitous, Happy Thanksgiving greetings from The Board.

Pride Muma
Board Chairman

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

Over the past few months, you've been introduced to the **FISH Network** through the monthly Centennial Hotspot newsletters. If you have missed reading a **FISH Network** article and are interested in learning more, let us know! We'll be certain to provide you with a copy.

With the focus on **Friendship**, you may have received a call from one of our **FISH Network** -- Annie Edie, Carla Zacharias, Jean Tupper, Jin Woo Kim, Phyllis Russell, Simon DeVries. If you haven't heard from us ... you will! Meanwhile, feel welcome to reach out to us or feel inspired to call anyone at Centennial to check in and see how they are doing.

If you want to understand more about the **FISH Network**, we are excited and available to share more information with you. Simply contact us! We have a presentation and would be pleased to present it to you, or any, and all our church committees. Let us know when it would be convenient. We will do our best to accommodate you.

The **FISH Network** is working on other initiatives as well. How comforting would it be to know that you have someone -- a specific someone -- from our Centennial Presbyterian Church congregation who is praying for you -- each day, every day and who you are praying for? Our plans include creating a prayer buddy program. We will be sharing more about this initiative as it gets underway -- stand by!

Jean Tupper

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CCWF had their first after Summer meeting on Thursday September 24th. This meeting was well attended as most of the members were in attendance. Thanks to everyone for coming and look forward to seeing more of us again on Thursday October 15, 2020 at 11:00AM

Phyllis Russell