

Connections Fall 2014

Comox Valley
Presbyterian
Church



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

I am sure it has been said more than once that, "it's hard to believe that Summer is over!" Mike and I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the island on our two brief camping trips and I had a great time exploring Halifax for a week where my brother currently resides. I have one more week of holidays coming up in which I will be attending an annual music festival in Victoria. A highlight for me this summer was of course serving as keynote speaker for the Canada Youth conference. Imagine worshipping with 500 young people who are all excited to sing, pray and listen to God! There are many concerns about the future of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, however, when I am among those young people I see energy, hope and a bright future.

One of the most moving moments at Canada Youth was leading in a day of Truth and Reconciliation. With the help of Justice Ministries (a national committee of the PCC) on Thursday we participated in

events, discussions and exercises related to the work being done to reconcile our relationship with our First Nations brothers and sisters. The most moving of these was the blanket exercise and listening to residential school survivor Eugene Arcand. It is quite an experience to share in this emotional discussion with our young people. In Mr. Arcand's talk we were witnesses to the true meaning of reconciliation in that we saw hurt and pain but also a will to move forward and forgive. What a blessing to learn this hard lesson from such a talented and gentle man. It reminds me how important it is to not only say but also act with hope for reconciliation with all our neighbours. I hope in the future to share some more experiences about and from Canada Youth.

Speaking of the future, September is always a time to look to our future. Normally the children are starting a new school year and our various committees,

groups and programs begin again. With this in mind the newsletter committee thought it would be important to highlight the work of many of our groups and committees. Not only is this a chance to find out about all the various groups like Discernment, fellowship, Tai Chi, Choir and prayer group, but also many of the committees that help keep this church in working order such as Library, Building and Property, Worship and so much more, many of which are always looking for new members. In these pages we hope you learn about activities that may interest you and a place where your gifts and talents may flourish. I too have found it interesting to learn more about this great, caring and active community!

Keep an eye out for events such as the Fall Fashion show, a Physical and Mental Health Speaker series, a Focus on Mission Afternoon, and especially Advent and Christmas services which, believe it or not, is just around the corner.

On a personal note I was honoured at the annual national church meeting, General Assembly, with an appointment to the national church's committee on Church Doctrine. This is a minimum of 3 year commitment in which we receive overtures and advise the national church on items of doctrine. It will require that I attend 2-3 meetings a year but most of the meetings occur midweek and should

not interfere with my primary call, which is to serve this congregation. It is my hope that I will be able to inform you of new developments and discussions. You will be a congregation on the cutting edge of our national church.

Blessings as we begin this fall time together!

Rev. Jenn's Important Dates

Oct. 2-3 Church Doctrine Committee
Meeting at Knox College, Toronto

Oct. 5 World Communion Sunday
(Charlie Scott preaching)

Oct. 12 Thanksgiving Sunday

Oct. 19 Mission Awareness Event: Rev.
Joey Cho and Cedar Tree Ministries



The **Rev. Joey Cho** and his wife Kelly, together with their family, have spent the past twelve years immersed in outreach to the **Cowichan First Nations** people.

Come and learn more about his vision to share God's reconciling love and Christ's healing power with First Nations peoples on Vancouver Island through **Cedar Tree Ministries**.

Sunday October 19th at 3 pm

A Wealth of Opportunities to Serve and Connect

Find out more about groups and committees active in our church

ARCHIVES

"Archives: a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people."

Your Archives committee consists of Convener Laura Cronsberry, Marion Lade, Darlene Janes, Mike Werth and June Kuhn. Meetings are held at the call of the Convener.

The CVPC Archives consist of our important papers, memorabilia, and many pictures taken throughout the years. We have not been a congregation for very long, but we have had many momentous occasions that have been carefully documented and preserved.

The Archive Committee submits articles of interest of our past history to many of the Newsletter issues under the title 'Gleanings'.

Archives can use your help if you have memories of people and events of years past. If you would like help adding material to the archives, contact Laura or one of the committee members.

June Kuhn

BUILDING & PROPERTY

The Building and Property Committee is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church building and grounds. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month when necessary.

Our job is to maintain the cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the interior and exterior of the building and

gardens. At present the committee comprises six members of the congregation.

Norma Mortimer

CENTERING PRAYER

A group of us come together on Fridays at 2:30 pm in the library in silence. Our contemplative prayer lasts twenty minutes. We try to put our busy thoughts aside to allow the Holy Spirit a central place in our minds and hearts, that we might grow in our Christian walk. There have been from four to eight people each week, both from our congregation and others. After prayer we meet briefly in the kitchen for tea, coffee, cookies and fellowship. You are welcome to join us.

Paul Claydon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Georgina Pfeifer and June Kuhn have been jointly running these programs, with the assistance of four teachers and five helpers for the Sunday School, and nine helpers for the Nursery.

Teachers: Libby Day, Jessie Schut, Heather Philip and Sharon Scott.

Helpers: Monica Huisamen, Lois Lupkoski, Pat Manuel, Georgina Pfeifer and Kathy Wilson.

Nursery Helpers: Laura Cheyne, Angela Hope, Linda Kennedy, Marion Lade, Bev Morrison, Heather Philip, Ruth Rivington, Sharon Scott, and Kathy Wilson. There are several alternates that will step in at the last minute.

There was no Sunday School offered during the summer months, and into September, mainly due to shortage of teachers. Between health issues, and holidays, it wasn't an option. Ironically, we seemed to get more children during the summer. We supplied them with age appropriate clip boards with work sheets, pictures to colour, and puzzles, all Bible related. That way they were able to stay in the service with their families. A few times Mike Werth took the older children outside for games.

Our ongoing problem is a shortage of children, and often not knowing if any will be present on a given Sunday. This means the teachers must have a lesson prepared every week and often not have any children come. We are so thankful for these dedicated and loving teachers.

We were very pleased in June to have a young family start to come to worship with us and to use the nursery. We put together a roster of two helpers per Sunday. They have all been wonderful with the children and enjoy their time spent with them.

We have an interesting new program for eight to twelve year olds, but to accommodate varied age groups we need more teachers, so please consider if you could help out. We also hope to find a way to encourage more children to attend.

June Kuhn

DISCERNMENT GROUP

A year ago a group formed to discuss spiritual discernment. From September to late spring we met 5 or 6 times. Meetings were held at the church on a Thursday and lasted one hour. There were two

times to choose from: 2 pm and 7 pm. Meeting somewhat irregularly and having a choice of times to attend worked well and attendance was good. There were always enough present for interesting discussions.

We are looking forward to resuming our sessions and we invite others to join us. Those who join now are not "behind" the rest of the group, and the atmosphere is easy and relaxed. Materials distributed since the first meeting will be sent to anyone new.

The spirit is within us. Learning about it, seeking to pay attention to it, and sharing this experience with others is enriching.

Our first meeting date was Thursday September 25 at 2 pm and 7 pm at the church. The second meeting this fall will be at the same times on Thursday , November 13.

Come join us. If you have any questions, speak to Sherry Irvine or Sharon Scott.

Sherry Irvine

FELLOWSHIP

Not a committee, but a group open to all that gathers 10 times a year to connect and share a bag lunch, and celebrate with lunches out twice a year.

Each year we organize a Fashion Show and Luncheon, an Advent Dinner and a Lasagna Dinner to gather people with food and fun. Funds raised at these events this past year were donated to the Transition Society, the Food Bank and Prostate Cancer research. We also arrange refreshments following memorial/ funeral services.

Come out and join in!

Maryka Wester

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Our group of ladies began to study the Bible together four years ago. In Year One, we followed a commercial study on women of the Bible. In Years Two and Three, we followed the readings listed in the Scripture Union's Essential 100 Challenge. These were expanded into thoughtful, stimulating lessons inviting full participation by the attendees. In 2013-2014, we completed a New Testament survey course titled *Fifteen Apostles, Five Epistles, Four Gospels, and One Polemic*. This non-commercial course was developed in-house. We were honoured and pleased to have the company of Reverend Jenn whenever her schedule made that possible.

A new survey course focused on the Old Testament is being developed for the upcoming 2014-2015 season. Because the Old Testament is so much longer than the New, we expect that we will need two seasons to survey it. In the first, we expect to look at *Torah* and *Nevim*—Genesis to Deuteronomy, plus the Prophets from Joshua to Ezekiel. The second season will encompass the Twelve Minor Prophets plus *Kethuvim*—the writings, what we would likely call Wisdom Literature. In both cases, our group will look closely at what these books meant to the people they were written for, and what they mean for Christians today.

With Jenn's blessing, we expect to invite women from other local churches to join us. We meet on Thursday mornings, from ten to eleven-thirty. The lessons are designed to function on a drop-in basis. A person who attends only once a month

will not find herself lost, as each lesson is self-contained.

I appreciate the opportunity to lead this group, and have learned so much in the process of preparing lessons.

Jean Bullard

LEADING WITH CARE COMMITTEE

The leading with Care Committee was formed about eight years ago to Implement the Leading with Care policy developed by the national church. It states that all persons, and in particular all children, youth and vulnerable adults, who participate in the denomination's programs/ministries and /or use the denomination's facilities will be cared for with Christian compassion and will be safe. All session members, Sunday school teachers, nursery care givers and any others that work with the above stated must have a current criminal record check on file at the church office and be aware of the policy. The committee oversees this but does not meet on a regular basis.

Adriana van Tongeren

LIBRARY

Library books are borrowed regularly. There is a self-serve check out and in that is easy to do.

There are funds to buy books each year and quite a few new books have been added in the last 3 years. Some of the authors among the new acquisitions are: Timothy Keller, Katie Savage and John R. Cross.

The collection is now just about 100% catalogued, as well as weeded and sorted.

What the library needs are a few

volunteers to bring some new energy. We would like to have a time when the library is accessible for library uses, such as browsing at some time other than Sunday, discussions.

Can you help?

Laura Cheyne Sherry Irvine Heather Philip

MISSION

This committee raises awareness and money for local and international mission projects. A bulletin board and information shared during services keeps our congregation up to date on Presbyterian mission work being done across Canada and around the world.

Each fall gifts, clothes and groceries are collected into Christmas hampers for five individuals and families in need referred to us by the Salvation Army. Our Lenten project this year was kicked off by a speaker from Care-A-Van, and funds were raised for their medical and other support for our local homeless community. Every year the *Ten Dollar A Month Club* collects funds to help local school children with clothes and other items to allow them to participate fully in school activities. We also collect food each month for the Sonshine Soup Kitchen, the Salvation Army and the Comox Valley Head Injury Society.

The committee meets about six times per year and would love to have new members join us in our very worthwhile projects.

Maryka Wester

PASTORAL CARE

This Committee was set up first of all to help the Elders serve their districts by

visiting whenever they need help. We also send out cards (get well, bereavement, anniversary etc.), welcome new people and help them know about the church, and host events especially for the elderly. We meet every two months. If you wish to become involved you may speak to me or any one of the committee.

Ruth Rivington

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee of the Comox Valley Presbyterian Church acts as a liaison between the minister and the secretary. If any problems do arise we review them and then pass them onto to the Session of the church. Session then reviews and makes the final decision on any matters.

We meet approximately four times per year. We are made up of four members from the Congregation. Current members are Bev Morrison Chair, Bill Hunt, Anne Nelson and Nelson Cheyne. We normally operate with five members and we would like to invite anyone from the Congregation to fill this final position.

Bev Morrison

PHOTOGRAPHY

The picture board in the hall is maintained by Bob Taylor. It is there to assist you in getting to know each other. If your picture is not there please see him.

Bob Taylor

SESSION

Session is made up of 13 elders: Marg Carr, Mike Day (Co-Clerk of Session), Bill Kennedy, June Kuhn (Co-Clerk of Session), Marion Lade, Fran McLean, Bob

Mortimer, Wayne Penner, Georgina Pfeifer, Heather Philip, Ruth Rivington (Envelope Secretary), Sharon Scott and Adriana van Tongeren. Rev. Jenn moderates the regular meetings, and calls special meetings at her discretion. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm, except for July and August.

All important matters pertaining to the congregation and church property are brought to the meetings, and prayerfully considered. All church committees report to, and are guided by Session. We attempt to have at least one Elder on each committee. Session is sometimes asked to take part in decision making for

Presbytery, Synod, and the National Church.

This year, starting in September, the position of Clerk of Session will be split into two Co-Clerk positions. June Kuhn was Clerk of Session last year; now Mike Day and June Kuhn will become Co-Clerks, dividing the work and responsibilities between them. The Co-Clerk positions will be for two year terms. To provide continuity next year, Mike will stay on for a second year, and June will step down, making room for another Elder to take on the role.

If you have questions, ideas or concerns, please talk to your Elder, or Rev. Jenn.

June Kuhn



CANADA YOUTH CONFERENCE

TOP: Waiting for Worship

BOTTOM L: Vancouver Island Ccontingetnt (L-R)
Andrew McCowan, Jenn Geddes, Reid & Mary Chudley

BORROM R: Waiting for
keynote address





Adults (above) and children (right) enjoy the **Family Sunday Service** on June 29.



The Pastoral Care Committee hosted a **Garden Party** at the home of Marion Carmichael on July 24.

Below: Jenn Geddes, Madge McLeod and Jackie Rose relax in the lovely setting.

