

Connections **SPRING 2015**

Comox Valley Presbyterian Church



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725 Aspen Rd. Comox, BC V9M 4E9 250-339-2882 cvpc@shaw.ca web: comoxvalleypresbyterian.ca

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Message from the Minister

In preparation for the 20th anniversary service and year I have enjoyed, with the help of our archivist Laura Cronsberry, looking through some of the annual reports of years gone by. As I have done in February and March I will be sharing a lot of my favourite milestones and quotes throughout the coming months as part of the special "Milestone Minute" during the announcements on the third Sunday of every month. This edition of the newsletter also focuses on some of those dates, memories and thoughts. I enjoyed imagining what it must have been like at the dessert party held the Sunday before the first CVPC worship service.

Thus far one of my favourite quotes has come from D'Arcy who wrote, "I think back over the Sundays that have passed and see growth in numbers, better congregational singing, and a spirit of

worship that is meaningful." This sentiment is one that I too am able to enjoy thanks to the hard work of my predecessors in this ministry and this congregation!

In the coming months, during our milestone moments you will be able to find out when the first meeting of the fellowship group was held, what happened with the session following the dedication service for the building, and what "Live the Vision" meant to Rev. Ted Hicks when he arrived in 2007. Over the last 20 years there have been joys and sorrows, shared experiences and individuals who worked extra hard to see this ministry survive. It is important for us to look back and celebrate. It is also important that we look into our history as we build our future. This is not an easy time to be the church but perhaps it is the best time!

CVPC is privileged to have charter members who are still actively engaged in the congregation. Take time to talk to one of them to find out what it was like to start a church. It is hard for me to imagine what kind of energy it would have taken, what enthusiasm was required to see this vision through to the end, and why it was important for folks to have a Presbyterian church in this valley at a time when other churches were in decline. It is that energy, enthusiasm and importance that will drive us to plan for future generations.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are also a time full of traditions. My family tended to focus on Christ centred activities rather than some of the more secular stuff and that continues to be my focus in ministry. I thoroughly enjoy planning for the special services. Maundy Thursday is always very moving. I find it particularly special when we think about how the tradition of the Passover meal created one of our greatest sacraments. Come join us on April 2nd at 4:30 for a simple contemplative communion service.

On Good Friday I tend to let the vivid Scriptures do the preaching rather

than a formal sermon. The texts are rich with imagery that is both a display of love and utter suffering. Join us for these lessons and hymns on April 3rd at 10:30am. The Sunrise service, and no that's not a typo, awakens us to the miracle and joy of Easter morning. This year we will gather outside (weather permitting) at 8:30 am for some hymns and prayers followed by a light breakfast of hot cross buns, pastries and fruit. The Easter regular service always includes great music, celebration and wonder. If there are favourite hymns that you enjoy at this time of year please don't hesitate to suggest them! It will be a pleasure to walk this coming holy week with all of you.

May Easter remind you that we have a future that overcomes darkness, surrounds us with hope, and encompasses the saints of all times and places, especially those who made and continue to make CVPC a great place to worship, belong, and celebrate God's love for us.

Rev. Jenn Geddes



Important Dates from Rev. Jenn

March 29	Palm Sunday and Family Sunday!
April 2	Maundy Thursday service at 4:30pm
April 3	Good Friday service at 10:30am
April 5	Sunrise Service at 8:30am
April 17-19	Jenn away on study leave at the Vancouver Island Women's Retreat

VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND....

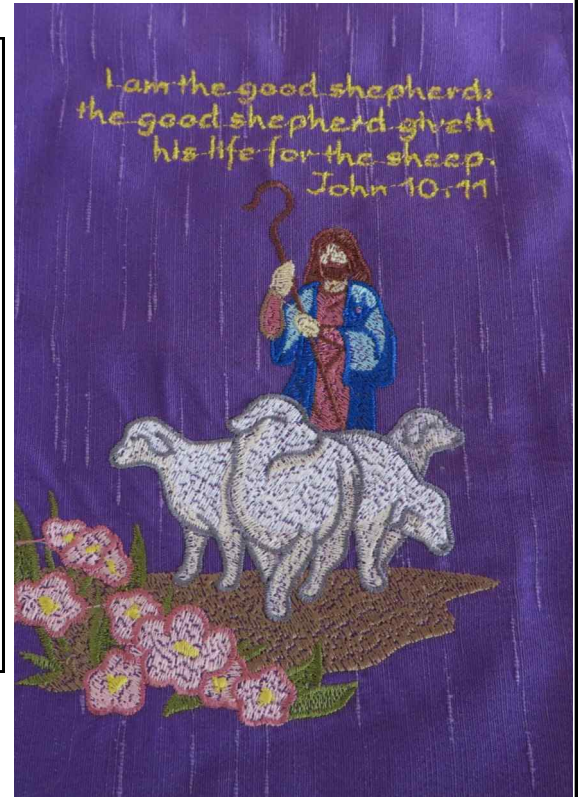
- ***contact** and **service** information
- *both written and audio files of the **sermons**
- ***programs** and **activities**
- *upcoming **events**
- ***newsletters**
- ***news posts** and **pictures** from recent events
- *our **mission** and **history**

Visit us online at comoxvalleypresbyterian.ca, find out something new, share it with friends near and far!

Rev. Jenn was the thrilled recipient of a new preaching stole created by Janet Goodacre-Bullock.



For anyone with a hint of the child in them – the flock of sheep is on the outside of the stole, but inside is the lost sheep (below).



HOW IT GOT DONE! The Building of Our Church

- April 1997** -7 building sites narrowed down to 2—Mission Hill at Hubbard and our present site
- November, 1997** -Aspen Road site selected
- July 1999** -Land purchased by Presbyterian Church in Canada
- July 1999** -Land dedicated in a special service
- November 1999** -shock when tenders for Phase One come in higher than budget for whole project!
- January 2000** -decision to build middle section from original plans, drop sanctuary and expand multi-purpose room
- May 2000** -land title transfers from Presbyterian Church in Canada to CVPC
- August 2000** -building permit issued and construction begins
- February 2001** -first service in the substantially completed building!



New members January 25: L-R Erica Farrell, Barb Tease, Nerissa Thomas, Debbie Daniels, Jeannette Campbell, Sheila McLellan, Julie McWilliam with Rev. Jenn Geddes. Doreen and Pieter Riedijk (not in picture) also joined that day.



VALLEY PRESBYTERIANS ORIGINALLY built their own building at the top of Mission Hill. The church still stands today next to the civic graveyard. ABOUT 1876

Valley Presbyterians ready to dedicate new church

"Finally. We did it. Praise the Lord," says Rev. D'Arcy Lade, adding, "It only took six-and-a-half years, more site-seeing than we care to remember, a vision of a first-phase structure that could not be, a building project fraught with challenge and debate and many mixed feelings."

On Sept. 18, 1994 a fledgling group of Presbyterians gathered for a dessert party at the Lade's manse.

Sept. 25 saw them worshipping together for the very first time in a packed room on the second floor of the Comox Community Centre and the Rev. D'Arcy Lade's missionary work was recognized by the Presbytery of Vancouver Island the following Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1994 in St. George's United Church, Courtenay. By Jan. 24, 1995, in the Courtenay Church of St. John the Divine, an officially constituted congregation of the Presbyterian Church in

Canada was created.

Presbyterians in the Comox Valley have historical connections with both the Anglican and the United Churches. The Presbyterian mission in the valley was started in 1876 by the Colonial Board of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In early years, the Presbyterians worshipped with the Anglicans at the bottom of Mission Hill in Courtenay. Later, the Presbyterians built their own building at the top of Mission Hill. The church still stands today next to the civic graveyard.

By 1925 there were three Presbyterian churches - St. Andrew's atop Mission Hill, St. George's in Courtenay, and the Bay Church in Comox.

In 1925 these, and other area Presbyterian churches in Union Bay and Cumberland, entered into the union that formed the United Church of Canada.

After looking for land, a 2.3 acre site at 725 Aspen Road was purchased by Canada Ministries with Live the Vision capital funds.

The new church will be dedicated Sunday, Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m.

All are invited.

We first hit the news!

The print may be a little fuzzy and require email viewers to hit their magnify buttons, but thanks to **Hal Hicks** for sending in this article and taking us back.

Profile of Ruth Dickson

I first came to know Ruth Dickson as her elder. I was impressed by all the lovely artwork in her home and enjoyed her stories of her early life in Scotland where she was born in 1918. Because of her interest in all things Scottish I had given her some copies of the “Scots Magazine” to read. Shortly after I had an excited phone call from her. There was an article about the famous lighthouse on Ailsa Craig, the rocky island remains of an extinct volcano in the Atlantic Ocean southwest of Scotland. It is visible from the Isle of Arran.

The article had been written by the curator of the museum in Girvan. Included was a picture of a lighthouse keeper and his family. There was a place for any information about the people in the picture with an email address to respond to. Ruth knew exactly who the people were—her grandparents, who brought up 10 children on Ailsa Craig. Given the times, they were fortunate to lose only one little girl to illness due to the inability to get to hospital on time.

That led to an exchange of emails and great interest in Ruth’s collections of life in lighthouses. The museum in Crail, Fife was eager for information on life on the Isle of May, another light the middle of the Firth of Forth. Ruth lived there with her parents from the age of 2 till she was 7. There were 4 families on the island, so it was never a lonely with other young people to play with. A famous shipwreck took place there when a 4-masted schooner being towed to port broke its tow-line and was smashed to pieces on the rocks around the Isle of May. Ruth recalls lying on top of the cliffs watching the ship break apart. Her family had several mementos of the schooner which were washed up. When Ray

and I went to Scotland we took with us a silver ashtray, a gift from Ruth’s family for the museum in Crail to add to their exhibition on the shipwreck.



After 5 years on the Isle of May the family moved to the Isle of Erraid, which was featured in one of Robert Louis Stevenson’s novels. There were 4 lighthouse keepers there, so she attended a school with 12 pupils in it.

In 1927 the family emigrated to Canada and her dad tried farming. It was the “Dirty Thirties” so it was very hard to make a go of it. When war broke out her father left to serve in the forces. In 1945 he came to BC to again be a lighthouse keeper and was in 4 different light houses before going to Pine Island at the tip of Vancouver Island in Queen Charlotte Strait. It’s no wonder Ruth has such an affinity for lighthouses!

When Ruth married she and her husband spent 10 years in Sayward—before the road was built. Then it was off to logging camps at Lake Cowichan and Duncan.

Ruth’s mother had been an artist so Ruth had always drawn and sketched, but it wasn’t until she needed some nice cards that she decided to concentrate more on her art. She has worked in all kinds of mediums but prefers watercolours. She has just finished a huge painting (4 1/2 X 5 feet) for a woman who wanted a picture of a Great White Shark for her husband. It is awesome! The buyer is just thrilled with it. It is quite an accomplishment for a very small woman with mobility problems in her 97th year.

When we were making the Alpha and Omega

banner I was having trouble working out a design for the fish. She designed the leaping fish and has gone on to design several banners since. You just give Ruth a bible text and she comes up with a lovely design. So far she has designed the “Burning Bush” (my favourite), the “Lighthouse”, the “Living Waters”, and now we have put up the latest, “For Every Thing There is a Season”. This has been the most difficult to do. (Ruth did warn me) and took us more than a year to complete. Many thanks to Corrie van der Boor, Janet Goodacre-Bullock, and of course Ruth herself who embroidered the lovely thistle at the top right hand corner.

Ruth is also a successful author and has written 4 books about life in BC. There is also a book of poetry. Her books are available at the Pearl Ellis Gallery. She has also created lovely hand-made story books for the grandchildren, with lovely illustration. We also enjoy two of her paintings which hang in our church, one in the Sunday school room and the other at the back of the church.

Ruth is a pretty amazing lady and we so appreciate what she has done. She has created a lasting legacy in our church.

Lee Ellis



Our Newest Banner

MISSION COMMITTEE LENTEN PROJECT

This year your donations will help in assisting the Rev. Joey Cho with his ministry at the Cowichan Grace Church. The Rev Cho spoke to us at our mission event in October with great passion about his work in native outreach ministry. Although he has received a grant from Canadian Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada his costs are overwhelming. The money you donate will be designated to pay for three months of rent on the church building. Additional money will help with new fixtures for their free store. Along with Sunday morning worship, the Cowichan Grace Church is an active congregation. They participate in bible studies, kids clubs and a mid-week sharing day where free clothing is made available.



Visitors from the National Native Ministries Council have attested to the impact Joey is making among the First Nations people. We would like to thank you for your support of the project. To date the amount donated is \$2495. For further information please see the bulletin board in the hallway.

Pastoral Care Committee potluck from January. L-R is Lee Ellis, Charles Scott, Lori Cameron, Sylvia Rowlandson, Marion Carmichael and Ruth Rivington. (Rev. Jenn took the picture)



Bill Murray (r) hands over responsibility as Beadle to Bob Taylor (l) on Jan. 4

Congratulations to Fellowship for a successful **Irish Stew Dinner** on March 13

Toku Sakade was the excited winner of a door prize.



Sheelagh and Neil McLeod model both tasteful (l) and exuberant (r) garb for the occasion.

Barb Tease entertained with some Irish classics backed up by Rev. Jenn Geddes.



Heidi Hyser gave an intriguing and informative talk and PowerPoint presentation on her cycling trip across Mongolia.

