

Connections Fall 2016



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Interim Moderator of St. Columba in French Creek, I have become quite familiar with both HWY 19 and 19A. Depending on time, responsibility and whether or not we're driving it over the dinner hour, we pick which route to take. While the 19 is quick, very quick with its 120 km/h speed limit, it is not as scenic, and while the 19A takes about half an hour longer it is rather pretty, with lots of views of the coastline and places to stop for a bite.

Sometimes we combine the two and take the 19A until Buckley Bay and then take the exit to the 19. What I have discovered, however, is how we grow accustomed to the environment around us, and what once seemed unique or quaint or even shocking becomes commonplace.

We even end up not noticing things around us. I think it took at least a dozen times

passing the Sandbar Cafe in Qualicum Bay before I realized that they had a huge wooden fish sitting in a canoe in front of their building, or that there is a large loon at a shop called Things'n'Stuff just a little further down the road. This is in part because when on this drive it has been to get to or from St. Columba- my mind has been focused on a particular destination and so I miss the unique and odd things along the way.

Throughout the summer we followed the Gospel of Luke from chapters 9-15 which is most often called the "travel accounts" of Jesus. This is because Jesus leaves Galilee for Jerusalem- setting his focus upon that final destination. What strikes me, however, is that while Jesus is travelling toward Jerusalem, the city in which he will die, he still has time to stop and preach, heal, teach, and prophesy to a multitude of people. No

matter how focused he is on his final Destination, he is still able to notice those in the crowd who are hurting, who are unique and who are searching for answers.

Instead of taking the quick road to Jerusalem he takes the scenic route, and stops often along the way. He stops in at the home of Mary and Martha and explains that sometimes we need to put our daily chores aside to focus on God; He teaches the disciples how to pray the ever important Lord's Prayer; He warns that through him families will be divided and He shares the popular parables of the lost sheep, coin and prodigal son. Jerusalem is looming ahead of Him and yet He still has time to minister.

This is an important lesson for me as I hurry down the road to various Search Committee and Session meetings but it is also an important lesson for all of us. While the destination is often important, we sometimes need to stop and take in the scenery,

refuel not only the vehicle but ourselves, and sit and learn from some of the unique people along the way.

This fall we plan on providing some of those moments in which we can refresh and refuel. Starting Sept. 23rd we will offer a Communion Service every fourth Friday of the month at 4:30pm. These services will have a Celtic contemplative feel, will be by intinction (participants will be invited to come forward to take the bread and dip it in the juice), gluten free and open to anyone. Bringing a friend is encouraged! I am also interested in leading another Bible Study, but would love your input. Is there a book of the Bible or theme that you would like to study? Please let me know!

A reminder that everyone is invited for a time of Fellowship following the service on Sept. 11th for a hot dog BBQ!

Rev. Jenn Geddes

Rev. Jenn's IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 11	Church BBQ
Sept. 12-19	Jenn on Holidays
Sept. 23	4:30 Communion Service
Oct. 2	World Communion Sunday
Oct. 14-16	Jenn at Synod in Richmond
Oct. 21	4:30 Communion Service

**OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH REFUGEES
ARRIVED AND EN ROUTE TO THE COMOX VALLEY
THROUGH VOLUNTEERING, SUPPORTING FUND RAISING EVENTS AND MAKING DONATIONS**

There are four church groups working with refugees in the Valley

1. **Christ the King**
2. **St. Peter's Anglican**
3. **Safehaven** (St. George's United, Comox United, Cumberland United, Alliance)
4. **Black Creek Mennonite** with **Living Waters, Living Hope, and Comox** Pentecostal

1. **CHRIST THE KING** – a family of four from Syria came to the Valley in October 2015

This support group is asking for volunteers to do some babysitting with the 2 girls, ages 5 and 2

- also a family of four from Syria are waiting for permission to come to Canada

2. **ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN** – a mother and child from Africa arrived in January 2016

- a Kurdish family of four are also waiting to receive final permission to come to Canada

This family is currently in great financial need as they await coming to Canada. This support group is collecting non-receiptable donations to financially help their present situation. Non-receiptable donations can be deposited to the "Kurdish Support Group" Account 772930 at any one of the three Coastal Community Credit Unions, dropped at the office or given directly, or mailed to Neil Crouch, 1840 Astra Road, Comox, BC V9M 4B4, clearly marked for Kurdish Family Overseas, and if writing a cheque, please make it out to "Kurdish Support Group". Please consider contributing \$20/month for the next eight months or a one time donation.

Plans are also underway for a Fund raising concert in October.

3. **SAFEHAVEN** are working with the InterCultural Association of Greater Victoria to support a family awaiting sponsorship.

There will be a fundraising event on October 22nd at St. George's United Church Hall in Courtenay from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Safehaven has raised \$14,000. and their target is between \$25,000. and 30,000. The TRINITY SALE will include a Bake Sale, Silent Auction and sale of used Jewellery.

This is the link to make a taxable donation to SAFEHAVEN – <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-georges-united-church/safehaven-refugee-family/>

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4. **BLACK CREEK MENNONITE** – a Syrian family of 3 are coming to the Valley with the 20 year old Son arriving this month (September). The rest of the family has been screened and is waiting for medical clearance so that travel can be arranged.

Members of the group in our congregation -

Jean Bullard

Mike Day

Erica Farrell

Janet Goodacre Bullock

Angela Hope

Marion Lade

Lois Lupkoski

Lorna Patterson

Heather Philip

Al Schut

Charlie and Sharon Scott

WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Contact Sharon Scott ([250 339 9521](tel:250-339-9521)) if you have any questions.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP NEWS

The Fellowship group is busy planning for the next four months.

On Sept. 13 we will be having a potluck lunch at Julie McWilliam's house at 1377 Ocean Drive in Comox. We will be happy to organize a ride for you; just let us know on the sign up sheet.

We plan to have a fashion show later this all.

The volunteers from the Fellowship group who help host events are aging, and so we are thinking about changing some of our traditional event. One idea we are exploring is a Christmas Tea with traditional baking and entertainment.

Everyone is welcome to be part of this group. Please come to the potluck on Sept. 13 or any of the regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 11 am in the church.

More information needed? Questions? Call Maryka Wester at 250-897-1948.

SERENITY PARK

A place that's not just of the mind
A creation simple in its kind
A wordless beauty all its own
Made up of trees, plants and stone
A softness, warmth and peace of mind
Is what the open heart will find
Tis human made and with great love
Surely created by one above

No man with his human thought
Could possibly its beauty brought
For all to see and smell and touch
For ordinary man it would be too much
God's creatures in it do abound
Deer, birds, and blossoms all around
No ordinary place is this
It's got the feel of heaven's kiss

By Marion Carmichael

WINTER- SUMMER- FALL -&- SPRING

Icy winds that chill the bones
 Cheery fires do warm the homes
 Trees stand naked in their place
 Its time they know to still their pace
 Soft bits of snow will start to fall
 This crisp white blanket covers all
 Snowmen and sleighs start to appear
 You know that winters really here
 It won't stay long and it will bring
 The things that then will herald spring
 The birds, the buds, on plants and trees
 Will hurry forth for all to see
 New life begins in everything
 And birds with vigor start to sing

The rich warm earth will then bring forth
 A new seasons growth of broom and gorse
 And tulips, daffs and apple trees
 Blossoms caressed by springtime breeze
 Next we summer enter in
 And some complain its hot as sin
 But really we should not complain
 If we make ourselves feel winter again
 All too soon will come the fall
 Its subtle changes touching all
 Some birds have gone but some have stayed
 Their winter home securely made
 For back to winter we have come
 Another year is all but done....

by Marion Carmichael

June was the **200th meeting of CVPC Session**, and they celebrated with a cake. Front, L-R:
 Marg Carr, Ruth Rivington, Sharon Scott, Adriana Van Tongeren, Fran McLean. Back L-R:
 Marion Lade, Mike Day, Heidi Hyser, Bob Mortimer, June Kuhn, Rick Shaw.





Pastoral Care hosted a very successful **Tea at the Gardens on Anderton** on June 24. Beautiful surroundings, wonderful refreshments and good company were an unbeatable combination.

Above L-R: Sharon Scott, Mary Friesen and friend in foreground; Ron Philip, Rita Tingle and Fran Mclean in background

Below L-R: Marion Lade serves while Rev. Jenn Geddes visits with congregation members.

