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Minister's Message

Last October a friend gave me a housewarming gift of spring bulbs. Filled with possibilities, hope and promise, each precious bulb was planted. Today, as I look in my garden and see the tender shoots breaking through the soil, I am so grateful for the message of new life and eternal hope.

Perhaps you are like me and rejoicing in the glory of spring's re-birth. We have taken time for reflection at our Annual Congregational Meeting in early February. Although we bear some anxiety about finances, nevertheless, we look around and know that we have an important ministry to live out. Our community of faith has energy and hopefulness about it. With confidence and commitment, we are looking to this Lenten season for spiritual feeding and nurture.

Many of our community gathered the last week for a forum on "The Once and Future Church." We were inspired by the messages offered by our four presenters. Truth telling and mission stories were presented to us through power point presentations and wonderful story telling. We were fed in body, mind and spirit. And then on Sunday we worshiped alongside our sisters and brothers of faith from Oasis United Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Saviour's Anglican Church. There was no question that God was with us and we were celebrating the joy of faithful sharing. Our thanks go to the Wise Elder's group who put on this wonderful weekend.

More opportunities for Lent sharing are being offered through a four week study called "God Talk." This small group initiative will look at the images, understandings, and experiences of God. Please pre-register. Also, a workshop on conducting funeral services, celebration of life services, or memorial services will be offered at the end of March. If you are interested in this important ministry, please sign up.

Once again, we thank Fern Gibbard for our Lent Spiritual Reflection booklets. Copies are available at the visitors table and the church office. We also appreciate the beautiful and touching writing Fern has offered for our Sunday morning worship service. Offering her incredible gifts enhances our worship experience significantly.

Spring is also a time for fun. An upcoming yard sale and a dessert and auction night will bring us together. The Stewardship Committee is thanked for all their hard work.

Lent is a season of reflection, soul-searching, and birthing new ideas. May our worship that unites us be meaningful. May our personal prayer life be rich. May our commitment to justice and compassion be expressed. May Lent be a time of spiritual renewal.

Blessings,

Laura J. Turnbull (Rev)

Our Financial Picture

Penticton United Church is profoundly blessed through the kindness of its people. You give freely and generously. 2016 was a year of much blessing, as two faithful women included us in their wills and left significant bequests to our church. However, by the end of the year we had to use some of that money to pay off our nearly \$14,000 deficit. The budget for 2017 was approved at the Annual Meeting showing a projected deficit of approximately \$30,000.

If you have not examined your financial offerings in a while, we encourage you to consider contributing a little more. If every financial giver gave \$5.00 a week more, we would not have a deficit. The cost of two cups of coffee per week, would make all the difference! Perhaps you can consider this invitation to help eradicate deficit budgeting. Special Easter envelopes are available to assist in your donation planning. Pick them up on Sunday morning or call into the office some morning during the week to receive an Easter envelop. May this Easter be a day of financial Resurrection.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 12 – Daylight saving time begins – SPRING AHEAD!!

Sunday March 12 - Lent 2 Worship – 10:00 am – Baptism of Jennifer Harder – Angelus Ringers offering music ministry

Tuesdays – March 14 – April 4 – 1:30 – 3:00 PM – “God Talk” - A series of discussions on who, what and how we understand God. Come and join the conversation. Please pre-register at the Church office..

Sunday March 19- Lent 3 Worship – 10:00 am

Monday, March 20 – Spring Break begins – Office closed on Mondays

Monday March 20-23 – The United Church week at the Soupateria

Wednesday March 22 – Executive of Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Wednesday March 22 – Worship and Music Committee Meeting – 2:15 pm

Saturday March 25 – Community Yard Sale – 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Tables available for rent. For more information call Mary Cawthorne at (250) 490-7854

Sunday March 26- Lent 4 Worship – 10:00 am

Monday, March 27 – Office closed

Wednesday March 29 – Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Friday March 31 – 1:30 pm – How To Conduct a Funeral/Memorial Service/Celebration of Life – Come and learn the skills and components of Celebration of Life Services. Experienced and new presiders will benefit from this workshop. Please pre-register at the Church office.

Sunday April 2 - Lent 5 Worship – 10:00 am – Angelus Ringers offering Music Ministry

Sunday April 2 – Worship Services offer at Trinity Care Centre – 2:00 pm and The Concorde at 3:00 pm. Come and support this ministry and help assist the residents

Wednesday April 5 – Executive of Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Wednesday April 5 – UCW meeting and fellowship – 1:30 pm

Wednesday April 5 – Worship at Haven Hill – 1:30 pm

Thursday April 6 – Building and Property Committee Meeting – 9:00 am

Sunday April 9 – Lent 6 – Palm Sunday – Worship – Communion – 10:00 am

Wednesday April 12 – Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Thursday April 13 – Maundy Thursday Service – 7:30 pm at St. Saviour’s Anglican Church

Friday April 14 – Good Friday – 10:00 am – Worship – 10:00 am

Sunday April 16 – Easter Sunrise Service – 7:30 am at Japanese Garden

Sunday April 16 – Easter Celebration – 10:00 am

Sunday April 23 – Worship with Natalie Maxson – 10:00 am

Friday April 28 – Dessert Party and Silent Auction – 7:00 pm.

Sunday April 30 – Worship with Rev. David Sparks – 10:00 am

Wednesday May 3 – UCW Meeting and Fellowship – 1:30 pm

Thursday May 4 – Building and Property Committee Meeting – 9:00 am

Sunday May 7 – Worship with Rev. David Sparks – 10:00 am

Sunday May 14 – Mother’s Day Worship with Fern Gibbard and Angelus Ringers – 10:00 am

Wednesday May 17 – Executive of Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Wednesday May 17 – Worship and Music Committee Meeting – 2:15 pm

Sunday May 21 – Worship with Rev. Laura – 10:00 am

Wednesday May 24 – Council Meeting – 9:15 am

Wednesday May 24 – Worship Committee Meeting – 2:15 pm

Sunday May 28 – Worship – 10:00 am – BC Conference Meeting

Saturday June 3 – Gospel Music Event with Marcus Mosely and trio- Come to this exciting event and experience the joy of Gospel Music. This special day is brought to us through the Memorial and Bursary Committee., honouring Shirley Myers. Pre-register at the church office.

Sunday June 4 – Worship with Marcus Mosely and trio – 10:00 am

Thursday June 1 – Building and Property Committee Meeting – 9:00 am

Sunday June 11 – Worship – 10:00 am with Picnic to follow at Manitou Beach park in Naramata.

The picnic is a project of the Wise Elders group. Come and have fun and good food. Friends from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Saviour's Anglican Church, and Penticton United Church will gather together.

YOU ARE INVITED

Easter Dinner – Sunday April 16– 4:30 p.m. If you will be dining alone or with one other person, please join with Laura and friends for Easter Dinner. 101 – 355 Brunswick Street, Penticton. (250) 487-4395. You may have to park in St. John Vianney parking lot. Please let Laura know if you are planning on attending so she can put another potato in the pot!