



FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

A Message from Rev. Laura

After a summer of incredibly hot days and unbelievably high numbers of forest fires in much of the province, we yearn for calm serenity. There has been stress to those evacuated from their homes and anxiety for the entire province as we realize the devastation to flora and fauna. The despair for communities that have lost major employers, homes beyond repair, people now living with illnesses from air-borne diseases, is more than most of us can comprehend. A number of congregations in Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery have been directly impacted. Princeton, Ashcroft, Barriere, Clearwater, Clinton, the 3 Kamloops churches, and Lillooet Pastoral Charges have all been directly affected by the fires. We hold them tenderly in prayer, knowing that God grants comfort and compassion.

Penticton United Church has been blessed with an outstanding Sermons that Speak series in July. Five of the best preachers in British Columbia (an in Canada) challenged, encouraged and provoked us to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. With such a rich banquet of worship delicacies, we feel nourished and energized for the fall. August saw the introduction of *“Called to Be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving.”* This is a fascinating stewardship program that begins with giving thanks. You may have received a thank you note from one of our thanksgiving team. You may have noticed in the Sunday worship bulletin interesting tidbits of information of the running of the church. In the week’s ahead we will be sharing with you some data about our giving’s in contrast with those of other United Churches across Canada. And then on October 1st, World Wide Communion Sunday, we will celebrate. What a wonderful way to be encouraged and informed.

Fall promises to be a busy time as we prepare to launch a year long 90th anniversary celebration commencing January 2018. The present Penticton United Church building was built and dedicated in 1928. Each month throughout 2018 we will be honouring a different decade in the life of the church. The final celebration will be in November.

Fall always is a time of new beginnings. Children head back to school. Young adults attend college and university. The church begins new programs like our four week review of the past Sunday’s worship service. We say good bye to the Fraser/Hamel family as Damien and Alex and their parents (Amber and Steve) have now settled into Grande Prairie. Plans are underway for the Chorale Extravaganza in November. Check the calendar of events for the summary of activities of Penticton United Church.

May the fall be a time of leaves turning colour – hearts turning towards the Holy One – spirits turning to community, bringing delight!

Blessings, Laura Turnbull (Rev)

God has blessed us richly. Thank you for your continuing contributions to the life and work of our church.

Our Financial Picture As Of July 31, 2017

Income as of July 31	\$11,559
Expense as of July 31,	\$15,919
Difference	-\$4,3460
Year to date Income	\$94,028
Year to date Expense	\$120,558
Difference	-\$26,530

Think Thanksgiving and give generously to our Thanksgiving appeal. Envelopes are available



Each day when we check our mailbox or our computer inbox at home, we seem to find a bill. This is true for us as a church. It costs us \$174 per day to open the church building and keep it

clean and user friendly. It is with United Church Council decided to Congregational Giving Program We Sing Thanksgiving.” September, we have included finances, PAR, the M&S fund, weekly Sunday bulletin. In preach about Jesus’ advice others talk about their joy in Wide Communion Sunday, we Thanksgiving! Enjoy!

Are You.....

- Passionate about Penticton United Church?
- Thankful for the outreach and care Penticton United Church offers?
- Committed to the ongoing

that realization that the Penticton embark on a low key entitled “Called to Be the Church: Throughout August and interesting data about our and congregational giving in the September Reverend Laura will concerning money. We will hear giving. On October 1st, World will celebrate and Sing

Calendar of Events:

- September 6 – Council Executive meeting
UCW meeting
- September 7 – Building & Property Committee Meeting
- September 10 – “Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving” – begins
- September 12 – Study Group begins
- September 16 – Wedding at Linden Gardens
- September 17 - “Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving” – part 2
- September 19 – Study Group – session 2
- September 24 - “Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving” – part 3
- September 26 – Study Group – session 3
- September 27 – Council meeting
- September 27 – Worship and Music Committee meeting
- September 28 – Prayer Shawl knitting group – place TBA
- October 1 --“Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving” – celebration with World Wide Communion
- October 3 – Study Group – final session
- October 4 – UCW Meeting
- October 5 – Building & Property Committee Meeting
- October 7 – Wedding – Cory Nelmes and Joseph Burt in sanctuary
- October 8 – Thanksgiving Sunday
- October 18 –Council Executive Meeting
- October 20-22 – Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery
- October 25 – Council Meeting
- October 25 – Worship and Music Committee Meeting
- October 27 – Turkey Supper
- November 1 – UCW Meeting
- November 2 – Building & Property Committee Meeting
- November 12 – Remembrance Sunday Shared Service at Penticton United Church
- November 19 – Chorale Extravaganza
- November 22 – Council Executive Meeting
- November 29 – Council Meeting
- November 29 – Worship and Music Committee Meeting

November 29 – 89th Anniversary Worship Service
December 3 - Communion
December 10 – White Gift Worship Service

YOU ARE INVITED

Thanksgiving Dinner – Sunday October 8– 4:30 p.m. If you will be dining alone or with one other person, please join with Laura and friends for Thanksgiving 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!

Did You Know:

A” Reflective” Study Group is gathering on **Tuesdays from 1:30-3:00 pm** in the Parlour for 4 weeks (**September 12, September 19, September 26 and October 3**). Come to one or all of the sessions. We will reflect on the previous Sunday’s worship service and sermon, sharing insights and “I would have done it this way!”

As part of the “**Call to Be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving**” project - a series of sermons, financial data, and tools for decision making will be part of upcoming Sunday bulletins and services. We will be culminating this program on October 1st (World Wide Communion Sunday) with a special celebratory worship service.

Grocery Cards are good for you and Penticton United Church! For every \$100 (one hundred dollars) you spend at Safeway, SaveOn, Superstore, or Wholesale Club for *groceries, prescriptions, flowers, magazines, gifts etc.* PUC will earn an average of \$4.70..now isn't that easy! Adds up quickly too.....last year Stewardship added over \$6,000 to the General Fund just by supporters using grocery cards. Cards are available after worship on Sundays and Tues. to Fri. in the Office.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry consists of knitters and crocheters who are planning to meet in a home environment during the afternoon of the last Thursday in the month. **For September, it’s the 28th** gathering at a home yet to be decided **at 2 pm**. This is an opportunity to socialize while making prayer shawls or other articles. Instruction will be available for anyone wanting to learn either craft, or help with patterns or a refresher course. Patterns, needles, and a limited amount of yarn will be available. Donations of yarn and large size needles are welcome. For more information please contact Fern Gibbard at 250-490-8996 or during the Sunday morning coffee hour. Stay tuned for September’s location.

Thank You

To the dedicated helpers who ensure the building is open, warm and clean

To the handy persons who spot a project that needs fixing and quietly goes about completing the task

To the fund raisers who come up with creative ways of having fun, while drawing countless people into our building. The money raised is precious.

To the kitchen elves who bake, shop, serve, smile, clean, put away - all while trading stories and caring for one another.

To the greeters and readers who help make the worship experience welcoming and enriching.

To the countless volunteers who give time, skill, experience, and insight as committee and council members.

To the coffee makers who thoughtfully put the pot on, as a welcome to the building

To the talented musicians and choir members who week after week offer outstanding harmonies. Always willing to go on the road, they share their gift with the residents of Care Facilities.

To the worship assistants who bring fresh ideas, commitment, and abiding faith.

To the "hidden angels" who quietly go about following the footsteps of Jesus; caring, loving, and being the church.

Did You Know:

- 74% of our members give to the local fund
- \$1,147.50 is the average yearly donation given to local fund
- 50% of our members give to the M&S fund
- \$327 is the average yearly donation to M&S fund
- 7% of the total budget is designated for the M&S fund (donor's choice)
- 39% of budget is clergy compensation
- 32% of budget is all other staff compensation
- It costs \$37/day to cover the cost of gas and electricity
- It costs \$174 per day to open the building and keep it clean and user friendly
- 28 members donate using PAR (16% of our regular givers)
- PAR givers donate, on average, \$1662, while non PAR givers donate, on average, \$786

Study booklets are not being ordered for **Advent, 2017**. However, if sufficient number of people request a booklet, we will be happy to place an order. If you are one who would like a booklet please leave your name at the office.