

PENTICTON UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER
FALL, 2018

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Ministers Message

You are cordially invited to the awesome, amazing, exciting, inspiring, and encouraging celebration of the 90th anniversary of Penticton United Church on Sunday November 25 at 10:00 a.m. Come and bring a friend! Our choir has special music prepared. The Naramata Community Choir will be performing a musical piece offered at our church's inaugural service. Distinct readings will be presented. It will be a service you will remember!

Throughout 2018 we have celebrated each decade one month at a time beginning in January where we explored the events and activities of 1928 and 1929. I wore the Geneva gown that was Red Sherwood's and generously given to me by Jean Sherwood. That black Geneva Gown was worn until the 1970's where it was replaced with a white alb and preaching stoles. By exploring a decade a month we have had the opportunity to explore the events and activities going on in the community and world, our memories of each decade, as well as a reflection on the highlights of church life. I give great thanks to all the people who have done the research that has made each decade come alive. The music that we sang came from the hymn book used in the particular decade. The "old blue" Hymnary, the "red" Hymnbook, Songs for a Gospel People, Voices United and More Voices provided the hymn selections for the relevant decade.

Some people wonder if we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. With great confidence I am certain that Penticton United Church will be honouring its 100 years of faithful service. Although our style of worship, focus of outreach, commitment towards faith formation will no doubt look different, I am confident that we will have a vital ministry to offer the people of Penticton. So, the question is, "are we prepared to change, grow, and respond to the needs that are before us?"

I am grateful to share in ministry with you. I am blessed to enter into your lives. I am honoured to celebrate with you.

Blessings,
Laura J Turnbull (Rev.)

Celebrations

What a great weekend with Marcus Mosely everyone was so happy and a big thank you to Lorna Cox who put so much time and energy into this event. We appreciate all the help from others too including billeting and baking cookies. It seems such a long

time ago but want to celebrate this.

Thank you to all who helped at the welcome table and billeted people at B.C. Conference.

We enjoyed the Angelus Ringers playing for the last time for a while unfortunately and it was fitting that Margaret Ormond who started the group was there to enjoy hearing them.

and concerns

for the families of those we have lost over the past few months, for those who are unwell in our church community and those who are feeling lonely. Please let us know if you would like to add your name or a member of your family or friend to our prayer list or would like a visit by contacting our office.

Keeping you in the Loop

Well by now you will know that in June we had some issues with homeless people who collect on our front steps and at the back of the property. After much discussion it was decided that we had to put up Private Property No Trespassing signs in compliance with the By Law Office. Council decided that it would be appropriate to put out a News Release regarding our decision and we certainly made the headlines!

The shifting of “Major Concerns” over the last 20 odd years.

Replacement of the furnaces and water heaters; insulating the building; a new roof for the “C.E. Building; repainting the exterior, (with Ron Harrison doing $\frac{3}{4}$ over a 3 year period), rebuilding the Chancel including moving the Organ, with Bob Garrett labelling, cutting and then re-splicing correctly over 500 wires, converting our complete Sound System to modern technology, (Mike Carnes), replacing our Sanctuary lighting with LED’s, etc.: have been the most major projects carried out, among many other important upgrades and maintenance ones.

The church “grounds” and exterior have been the target of vandalism in different forms that have shifted over the years; gradually increasing in severity and difficulty to deal with. 20 years ago, breaking windows, signs, and irrigation lines was the way to go; with scarcely a week going by without an incident. Plexiglass protective sheets made a big difference. Then came the age of “Graffiti”, sprayed even on the windows. Ron Harrison painted over the Graffiti within 24 hours, as this seemed to discourage the Graffiti artists, having their masterpieces covered before people could be upset by them.

Finally came drug addicts, using our stairwells, stairways and fire escapes to “shoot up” and camp. Left uncontrolled, they obstructed our fire exits, contaminated our “entrance and exit” areas with excreta, blood, syringes, needles, and fast food containers. Smoking and lighting fires in makeshift shelters against our doors created a fire risk to our whole building. Occasional threatening behaviour made for concerns about the safety of our staff; and for those using our building; especially Daycare kids. Attempts at breaking in to the building, with damage to doors and locks still occur occasionally; despite signs notifying that there is a Security alarm in place.

Repeatedly we received aid and advice from the police, the fire department and the City Bylaw officers. In order for them to take necessary measures to correct problems without us calling them, we had to have "Private Property, No Trespassing" signs. Since these signs were put up in July, we no longer have "camping" on the stairways or fire exits, much less "shooting up", and fewer calls to the police or fire department to revive or remove "users".

For the safety of our staff; we now have a "locked door" policy for the building, if only a single staff person is inside. We have volunteers to help remove needles, etc. from the grounds. It has been a heavy load on our Host and Custodian, Sue Butchart, as she is on call for the many emergencies.

The vandals and the Graffiti artists seem to have been scared off by the criminal element associated with the drug trade. A sad commentary on our present day society.

Once again **White Poppies** will be available preceding Remembrance Day. It is generally accepted that the Red Poppy was first promoted by Moina Michael (an American woman) and Anna Guerin (a French woman), two volunteers with the YMCA during the First World War. In 1918 the Red Poppy was worn by veterans and promoted through the Legion. It came to North America and Western Europe in the 1920's as a reminder of the goal of peace. Soon it became a symbol of remembrance. The White Poppy project began in 1933 by the Women's Co-operative Guild of Britain and in 1934 the all male Pledge Peace Union took over its production and distribution. Since the depression people throughout Europe and North America wear the White Poppy to commemorate all victims of war, mourn the environmental devastation war causes, to reject war as a tool for social change, to call for dialog and peaceful conflict resolution, and to show commitment to building a better future. Since the introduction of the White Poppy many veterans and ordinary citizens choose to wear the White Poppy along side the Red Poppy.

Children in church: *A bulletin treasure (not from ours): "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs!"*

Actually seriously please don't hesitate to bring children to church we have an area at the back that they can sit and enjoy playing and the care giver can listen to the service.

Thanksgiving Dinner – Sunday October 7– 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!

Financial facts

PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance. If you are unable to attend church regularly but wish to give on a regular basis please consider this. Phone the office to get more information.

Remember any offering made to the Penticton United Church is tax deductible and you will receive a receipt at the end of the year.

Our total income at the end of July is \$94,642.06.

Our year to date expenses as of the end of July is \$123,876.94.

For August 1st we spent \$29,234.88 more than we have taken in.

If we have a bountiful fall season we will hopefully keep our total deficit lower than the \$50,000 current projected amount.

Interesting bulletin information (not from ours) The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

did you know that First United Church in Vancouver is 133 years old and has been in the same location for 126 years?

Ongoing

Choir – our thanks to the choir members, Doug, Orma and Alice for their constant service to the church all year. We all appreciate their commitment and look forward to starting our practices again. You may notice a few empty chairs and we would love any of you who like to sing (no auditions required) to join us. Keep watching for the practice times which may be more convenient for you!!!

Gift cards: We can solve all your problems over those people who are hard to buy for and have everything or don't want any more "stuff". But it doesn't have to be a gift card for others. You can use them yourselves and help the church. You can now purchase Garden Works gift cards as well as gift cards from Save- On, Safeway or the Superstore! They are available after church or at the church office.

Knitters: If you like knitting and would enjoy getting together with other knitters who are making Prayer Shawls then we have the group for you. Please contact Fern Gibbard at 250-490-8996.

Various Committees and groups: we are always looking for new members on Stewardship, Worship and Music, Building, UCW, Finance, Memorial Fund, Membership and Pastoral Care, and Peace and Justice committees. In order to carry out the work of the church we need people to take on some responsibility. Where does your gift lie? Just talk to Patti Skinner who loves to fill those empty spots.

Healing Group is always ongoing. Contact numbers - Church office- 250 492-2684

Tuesday morning session - Martha @ 250 493-0356

Thursday evening session - Doreen @ 250 487-7607

Person in Hospital or care - Doreen @ 250 487-7607

If you have more questions, please call Sheila at 250 493-1096.

Love to Read? Don't forget that we have a great selection of books for your reading pleasure in the office area. Just \$2.00 what a deal!

Coffee together: If you would like to be part of a weekly coffee group at McDonalds on Main Street please contact Meryl or Gilbert Kendall at 778-476-2085. This is a good opportunity to meet people and get to know them.

Did you know that we are now the Pacific Mountain Region and not BC Conference?

Upcoming events

Extravaganza – yes we are planning this once again on Sunday, November 18. It is in the planning stages and we will keep you updated. Sage Valley Voices from Oliver are organizing the event this year. Half of the proceeds will go to our church and half to a charity of their choice. Mark your calendars and watch for updates.

90th Anniversary – November 25 at 10 we will be having a special service of celebration with special music. There will be refreshments following and a time to share stories. Please invite those who have worshipped with us in the past and have been a part of our history.

90th Anniversary Fund Raiser

We have obtained 400 multi-purpose cards (blank) with envelopes as a fund raiser!

They will be sold for

1 @ \$1.50 ~5 @ \$6.00 ~10 @ \$11.00

As soon as these sell out we will obtain more!! Please consider this program!!

Ken Lavigne Concert · October 12 at 7:30pm. This is a fundraiser for the church. Ken Lavigne is a tenor from Chemainus. His main focus is to have the audience uplifted. Bring your friends to this great event. He has been entertaining for many years and you may have been to one of his concerts.

Did you know that UVIC Chaplaincy is 40 years old and includes all faiths. 70% of the students enrolled have no religious affiliation?

Please mark your calendar with the following events that are coming up

September 16

October 12

October 28

Anniversary – Celebrating the 90s

7.30 pm Ken Lavigne Concert.

Anniversary - A Parting, Going Separate Ways in Faith

November 18	2:00 pm Extravaganza
November 25	Anniversary – 90 years of Faithful Service
December 24	Christmas Eve Service

Did you know that there are 60 Shared Ministry congregations in British Columbia?

Interesting Facts

Meet the Staff at Penticton United Church

Do you know our staff? We are fortunate to have a wonderful staff of caring and sharing individuals who keep the church running on a day to day basis. From your first visit to our office area to any Sunday service, you will find these people ready to assist you and make your time at PUC a welcome time. Please call in and say Hello to our staff on weekdays or at coffee hour after Sunday worship.

Reverend Laura Turnbull is our minister who has been with us since 2010. Laura leads our weekly worship services, conducts weddings, funerals and baptisms, visits our sick and bereaved, and keeps us in touch with the larger church. She has led us through difficult decision making, through goal setting, and through happy times of celebrating our congregational life. Laura has, through the Wise Elders group, initiated the joint services and cooperation in planning and worship with St. Andrews Presbyterian, St Saviour's Anglican, and Oasis United. Laura is a member of the Downtown Churches for Social Justice which seeks solutions to the many downtown problems which we face today: the homeless, the hungry, the drug addicted, and those who seek a safe refuge. As we celebrate our 90th year as a downtown church, we have reflected on the changes which have come to our city and our congregation. We have enjoyed our looking back at past decades, with special guests from our community, complete with Laura wearing a black Geneva Gown, offered for this occasion by Jean Sherwood. We hope you can attend our Celebration of 90 years in November – watch the newsletter.

Laura keeps office hours Tuesday through Friday. Please call in to visit, phone the church for an appointment (250-492-2684), or have a coffee with Laura at coffee hour after Sunday service.

Our newsletters always feature a message from Laura, and her sermons are available on our website at www.pentictonunitedchurch.ca

Marianne Lummin is our Office Coordinator. When you enter our office area or phone our office, you will be greeted on Tuesdays and Thursdays by long-time employee Marianne. A welcoming smile and answers you need will be yours when you meet this lady who also serves as our Financial Officer. Marianne coordinates the weekly bulletin with assistance in folding and stacking by our Office Volunteer **Karen**.

Questions regarding use of space in our building, donations to our church, sale of tickets to upcoming concerts, or any topic related to the operation of the church will be answered with a smile by our Marianne.

Dolores Rose is our Office Assistant who greets you with a cheery welcome Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. In the summer and on school holidays, our office is not open

on Mondays. Dolores can help you with all inquiries and assists with the preparation of our weekly service bulletin, as well as the newsletters, and other office tasks. When not manning the office, Dolores can often be found greeting arrivals for Sunday worship at our Membership table in the narthex.

We are so fortunate that Marianne and Dolores can cover for each other when needed time away or holidays come up. We appreciate the cooperation among our staff.

Do call in and meet Dolores and Marianne, our “front-line workers” who are happy to help you with your questions. These office workers also manage our food cupboard which consists of donations from congregation members to assist those in need with small parcels of non-perishable food. For staff safety, we have a locked door policy when only one staff is in the office area. If the door is locked during posted office hours, please use the buzzer to attract the attention of the office worker.

Susan Butchart assumed the role of Host in 2016. She provides a welcome to those who use our building after regular office hours. Arrangements for use of space, meetings, or gatherings of Healing Touch groups and of our 12-Step groups are handled by Sue. We even have a Hip Hop group! This job has a lot of evening work and includes concerts, weddings, funerals, and other special events. The increase of very difficult people in our downtown alleys and on our own property have caused Sue to become a good judge of situations which may require help from Police, Fire Department, or Ambulance first responders. We are so pleased and proud to be able to help those in need and those trying to overcome their addictions. However, we have had a large increase in the number of people who seek to shelter on our property for the use of drugs. (Please refer to item in this newsletter from Building and Property)

Sue’s longer role with PUC has been as Custodian. This is daytime work which is complemented by her role as Host. In this capacity, Sue keeps our building clean and tidy, and assists the Building and Property committee to be aware of needed repairs and updates, fire alarm maintenance, lockup procedures, and the general repair and maintenance of our building. What a handy lady with basic repair tools! Sue frequently has the support of her dog to keep her company for night time tasks and is ably assisted as needed by husband Don.

Alice DeRoche is our Choir Director who each Sunday leads her Sanctuary Choir in presenting well-chosen anthems and leading us in singing hymns. Alice finds wonderful music for the choir whose size varies weekly and who consistently present a piece of music to add meaningful musical contribution to our services. Thursday night is choir practice for this choir. Please contact Alice if you would like to join this choir which operates as a close knit family. Alice and the choir have contributed greatly to the observance of our 90th anniversary, and we look forward to their musical choices for our grand finale in November.

Also in November, watch for news of the Musical Extravaganza which takes place in our sanctuary and features several local choirs.

Doug Stark is our volunteer organist. We are so pleased to have our wonderful organ played so enthusiastically by Doug. When Doug raises the volume on familiar hymns,

you cannot resist singing with all your might. He also plays the piano as needed and is known to improvise the occasional riff to surprise Laura or to develop further a theme mentioned in the scripture or sermon.

Orma Baker is our volunteer pianist, accompanying the choir and leading us all through hymns familiar or new to us. Orma loves to pick up the tempo a bit, and can be heard clearly on our grand piano. When not playing the piano, Orma will be found singing in the choir. This is a lady who loves music, as evidenced by her easy rhythm and smiling face.

We are so fortunate to have two musicians of this caliber who volunteer their time and who arrange to take time away when the other musician is available.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee thanks all our staff for their cooperation, loyalty, cheerfulness, and contributions to the successful operation of Penticton United.

Our committee was saddened by the death of Doug Youngstrom who served many years on this committee, offering advice and guidance from a long association with PUC as well as career experience in administration and human resources. The current committee will soon be replaced by new members who will assume their duties in the fall. Watch for further news.

The End of An Era – Changes to Come

Last Report from B.C. Conference - May 31- June 3, 2018

2018 B.C. Conference, was held in Penticton, and attended by Rev. Laura Turnbull, Rev. Harvie Barker, and Sarah Tupholme and Sheila MacDermott as Lay Delegates from Penticton United Church. We were formally greeted by Adam Eneas on behalf of the Okanagan Nation who talked of how faith works, his own faith journey, and his suggestions for how to mend what happened in the past. He asked us to talk with First Nations people in our respective areas to learn how we can work together to advocate for them.

There was a sadness that this was the last meeting of the B.C. Conference, as the next meeting will be as the newly formed Region under the new structure of the 3 court system if approved at General Council this summer. There was also a feeling of hope and optimism that the proposed changes would lead to a new invigorated United Church of Canada.

This year's theme was 'A House not Made of Hands', building on last years theme of 'How big is our Tent', and the tent now torn down to rebuild. Scripture was centered on II Corinthians 4:1-7,16, and 5:1. We started by studying the conference logo which consisted of an open line house with symbols of an clay pot holding our past, a heart holding a loving presence and a cross with a window looking to the future. Will Sparks and Brian Thorpe reviewed some of our successful past - the huge Sunday Schools, the multiple groups of UCW and huge congregations with several services on Sunday to welcome everyone, and constant groups meeting for youth, and CGIT during the week - active churches that were the center of community. We heard from many people, who may be familiar to you - Ralph Milton, Carmen Lansdown,

Pamela Evans and Beth Hayward who talked of their memories of church and invited us to remember our own congregation's treasures.

We later discussed our losses, such as the Thomas Crosby, reduction of UCW, closed churches, how we are affected, but not broken.

Theme also portrayed 'building something new' as shoots of life rise from our foundation and history. With speakers invited to speak of the new, creative things being done to use/rebuild/rejuvenate

7 candidates for Ordination were accepted and ordained at Sunday's Service.

4 Candidates admission by transfer to BC were accepted and officially recognized at Sunday's service.

18 Ministers were honoured at their retirement

Much of our time was spent in table group discussions as we made decisions regarding **proposals** and plans for the transition ahead. Some proposals were 'for information only'(I), 'educational'(E), 'future planning'(F) such as:

-a request for decriminalization of simple drug possession(E)

-request re way Ministerial pension funds dealt with(E&F)

-re planned financial use to follow set priorities to financial and human resources(F)

-to develop a Denominational Vision to ground us(F)

-to develop a creative rights guideline re clarification of ownership of writings eg sermons by church personnel, with request for ownership to be transferred to the Minister/personnel that wrote/composed it.(E&F)

-re ongoing Ministry Support and Supervision(F)

-re planning for clear division of funds for Ecumenical Shared Ministries(F)

- General Council Proposal regarding the Trans Mountain Pipeline was voted to be passed on to National, for information, but not passed by Conference, recognizing how divisive it would be to individual congregations and effects on First Nations and other communities, who depend on income from same and others who don't.

-There were 2 votes for what our suggested new Conference should be named-Pacific Mountain Conference- if approved nationally.(F)

BC conference Proposals

-re land owned by UCC in Bella Coola, Bella Bella, Hazelton, and consultation needed re plan for land title(E)

-re apparent preaching from pulpit against LGBTQ and 2-Spirited peoples against UCC policy(E)

Rev. Blair Odney was elected as President Elect for this year.

BC nominated Rev. Dr. Richard Bott for Moderator.

Commissioners were chosen to attend National Council.

Announcement that Cariboo Presbytery was declared the first Affirming Presbtery

Information was given re proposed changes to 3 Court system:

(if approved at National Council meeting in Summer)

- regarding cluster formation among Churches whether they be geographical areas, or

special interest concerns, whether they meet in person or via conference calls - they will be arranged by the churches involved. There is not expected to be funds to support these clusters, but will be generated by the clusters themselves.

-outstanding loan to Naramata Centre with interest owing-request for interest to be paid .

-plans for how we will transition to the new Region, as well as, the transition of funds.

-assessments next year to be paid to the national church Denomination, and likely some assessment to the Region, with the calculation made related to revenue rather than the present expense system calculation.

-review of plans re assessments next year. Denominational amount expected to be 4.5% of expenses, and Regional assessment might be .5%, pending enactment of Remits at General Council.

- Announced that Doug Goodwin plans to retire next year

-General Council will be meeting in July in Oshawa, Ontario

Pecha Kuchas

-U VIC campus ministry report.40 years old includes all faiths.

-VST report

-Our Place - a community of care (3 places) in downtown Victoria for care for of street and chemically dependant folk in Victoria, that includes counsellors, present first responders, showers, overnight mats, therapeutic community, employment opportunities

"Vision without a task is a dream, task without a vision is drudgery,
vision and task is the HOPE OF THE WORLD"

-Stewardship Tool kit - Called to be Church

Presbytery meeting at Conference:

3 People to be nominated from BC Conference to national Board of Vocation including standards, candidacy and complaints committees.

Report from youth re their wish to be safeguarded/considered in budget planning

Next (last) Presbytery meeting to be held at Salmon Arm, Oct. 19-21, 2018

The Healing room offered by practitioners from the Penticton United Healing Group, Oasis United, Oliver Anglican was appreciated by those who received.

On behalf of Sarah and myself, thank you for being able to represent Penticton United at Conference. There was much conversation and planning about where we, as the UCC and Conference are going, as well as, celebrating where we have been and are now. I felt that our opinions were closely listened to and will be carried to the National level, as plans for our proposed change to 3 Courts progresses.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila MacDermott and Sarah Tupholme.

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