

Our New Mission Statement

We seek to be a welcoming Christian community, inclusive and respectful of all, striving to create a safe and friendly place for worship, education and community gathering.

We endeavour to fulfill this mission statement through:

Nurturing faith through worship, healing, teaching, music, example and action.

Accepting and loving, where everyone feels welcome and safe;

Striving for justice, self-worth, wholeness and inner peace;

Responding to meet the varied and changing needs of the congregation, community and world.

LENT AND EASTER NEWSLETTER 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The season of Lent brings many opportunities to be spiritually feed and nourished. With two outstanding workshops being offered in March, a Study Group on prayer in March and April, worship focusing on the Lord's prayer and Devotional Booklets utilizing the Lord's Prayer as its base, there is no doubt that one will be well supported on their Lenten journey.

On March 9th Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart will facilitate a workshop entitled "Beyond Snakes and Shamrocks: St Patrick's Missional Leadership Lessons for Today." Looking at the life of St. Patrick, Ross will explore the future of the church and ways we might be faithful to new converts. This workshop is sponsored by The Wise Elders.

On March 30th Rev. Debra Bowman and Allison Rennie will facilitate a workshop entitled "Communities of Faith: Made for a Time Like This." These two talented facilitators will help us explore ways for United Church people to network and support each other. We will examine possibilities for future ministry in the United Church. This workshop is sponsored by the South Okanagan Cluster of United Churches.

Fern Gibbard and I have been preparing material based on the Lord's Prayer for worship, devotion and study. With Fern's creative talent, we have a rich package of resources that will encourage, support, and challenge each of us. A Study Group will gather on Wednesday afternoon (March 13, 27, April 3, 10) to explore what scripture has to say about prayer. Devotional booklets have been prepared examining the Lord's Prayer using a variety of translations and creative editions. These booklets are similar in style to the Advent ones offered this past December. Worship will introduce Jesus' timeless prayer in a variety of formats that are sure to support and challenge.

I am looking forward to Lent. We begin on March 10th with a Shared Worship service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, with Dr. Ross Lockhart as preacher. The Wise Elders offer shared worship twice a year, on Remembrance Sunday and the Sunday after the forum/workshop. Don't miss this opportunity to worship with our brothers and sisters from St Saviour's Anglican Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Oasis United Church, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Come and experience a wonderful beginning to Lent. May the journey be full of wondrous vistas. May your pilgrimage be life changing. May you explore the depths of your spirit.

Blessings,
Laura Turnbull (Rev.)

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sunday, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy (Easter) Sunday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten* which means 都pring. · The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing for his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a 卝ini-Easter · and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

I can resist everything except temptation – Oscar Wilde

CELEBRATIONS – there is so much to celebrate this time.

Sunday, November 25 was our 90th Anniversary Service attended by about 145 people .The Naramata Choir, who with members of our Sanctuary choir sang “The Hallelujah Chorus” which was sung at the opening service in 1928. There were many visitors from local churches and returning visiting members and clergy. What a day of memory sharing.

On December 19 the Concert Club crew set a new record of setting up the stage in 45 minutes. Thank you this hard working group.

Due to the demand the PlayShare group is here 5 mornings. They are now under the new direction of Maddy as Anna retired.

The Stewardship Committee has hosted a couple of soup and bun meals after church with another happening February. This dedicated group also put on a very successful Makers Market in December.

We have over 140 volunteer positions in the church and many people wear multiple hats. We thank each and every one for their dedication to this church.

Many completed the questionnaire circulated by the Long Term Planning. We appreciate the work that this committee has done over the year. They have recommended the new Mission Statement, revision of the Constitution and By Laws, hosted a workshop on looking to the future, and brought to our attention the need to look at our future as a congregation.

Many have suggested that we encourage more use of our facility and the good news is that the Penticton Tune-Agers singers and orchestra are now back practising in our church.

Not sure if this is a celebration or concern but our Fern Gibbard has decided not to renew her Licenced Lay Worship Leaders Licence but she will still be leading worship here. On May 5 we will be having a special tea after church to recognize her and show our appreciation.

General Council has confirmed that Rev. Laura Turnbull has been appointed as a member of one of the Candidacy Boards of the Board of Vocation. This will be in the Pacific Mountain Region including British Columbia and part of Southern Alberta. The position on the Candidature Committee is to interview and support candidates for the ministry.

Congratulations.

AND CONCERNS

for the news of the passing of Margaret Ireland who has been living in Revelstoke. Our condolences to her husband Bob.

For the many who are experiencing ill health at this time. Caring for ailing loved ones and mourning the loss of family members and friends.

Thought: Don't judge: Remember we all plant "deer proof" plants but have that one deer in the garden who loves them!

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

Just to remind you that we have a very dedicated Pastoral Care Team. These people make sure the sick and lonely are visited even when they move to care facilities in Oliver and Osoyoos. They give so much time to the care of others. Talk to Patti Skinner, Rev. Laura Turnbull, Eileen Tymm or Sheila MacDermott if you feel called to this ministry. Also contact them or the Prayer Shawl group if you know of someone who would benefit from a cuddly, home made prayer shawl.

Study Group: Wednesday March 13, March 27, April 3, April 10 – 1-2:30 pm. Come and be part of our Lent Study group. Explore what scripture has to say about prayer. Experience the joy of sharing with a group of questioners.

Annual General Meeting Highlights

We were advised that all the money designated and sent to the Mission and Service Fund now goes to projects, none goes to administration. Our goal this year is to collect \$15,000 for this fund.

The Executive for 2019 is Chair: Patti Skinner, Vice Chair: Gerry Neilsen, Secretary: Sarah Tupholme, Treasurer: Mike Bonnie.

The United Church of Canada is undergoing change and one is no more Presbyteries and BC Conference. We are now part of the Pacific Mountain Region which includes BC and Banff, Alberta and Whitehorse, Yukon. Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott are our Lay Delegates to the Region.

We now have a brand new Ministry and Personnel Committee: Janet Phillips, Deb Ede, and Gerry Neilsen are serving on it. A huge thank you for the years of work that Barb Godsmark, Doreen Bobbitt, Cheryl Filipenko and Doug Youngstroom spent on that committee.

Our new Search Committee Members are Harry Shaw, Sheila MacDermott, Gordon Houston, Jan Neale, Bob Garrett, Fern Gibbard, Marion Koziar and Sarah Tupholme. This committee has to be set up as part of the process of discerning the need for new leadership at our church. We will be led by Regional Council Staff Person, Allison Rennie. The following is copied from the form:

The goal of the Ministry Profile and Search Committee is to make a recommendation about the ministry needs of your pastoral charge, and then to hire ministry personnel that meet those needs. This process is in two main parts. It starts with the creation of a report that is a snapshot of the current state of the faith community and ministry needs of the congregation. It finishes with the adjustment (often hiring) of ministry personnel to fit the needs of the congregation. This process replaces the Joint Needs Assessment and Joint Search processes.

If you are parking behind the church please do not block the dumpster beside the church as we get billed for extra pick up if they cannot get to it. Pick up is Friday.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Unfortunately our bottom line on our financial report was not good. We now face the challenge of trying to overcome this huge debt. I wonder what part we can play as a member of the congregation or an adherent. Our Finance Chair, Colin, has challenged us to increasing our offering by \$6.50 per week or \$25.00 a month. This is certainly something to consider. Or maybe we could think about bequeathing money to the church.

Why not consider PAR, Pre-Authorized Remittance. If you are committed to regular giving, unable to attend church regularly or wisely disappear south in the winter but wish to give on a regular basis please consider this option. Please phone the office to get more information.

Life is like a jigsaw puzzle (with no missing pieces) eventually the pieces will fit.

ONGOING

Choir: A few of our choir members for health reasons have had to leave or take a leave of absence from our choir. Our dedicated leader Alice is now choosing pieces for a smaller group but we would love it if you feel that you would like to join us (no auditions required). As you can see we do have two new members Bessie and Shirley. We practice on Thursday evening 6:30-8 and Sunday morning at 9. Come and join the fun!

Gift Cards: Something I have noticed is that we all eat and a lot of us garden. So why don't we all consider purchasing a gift card for ourselves or others? We can now get Garden Works, as well as gift cards from Save-On, Safeway and the Superstore. This is our biggest fundraiser. They are available after church at coffee from our Cheryl who is a huge promoter or from the church office during the week.

Knitters: We so appreciate the ministry of this group who (as well as scarves, toques, mitts) continue to knit prayer shawls which are given to people in need. Again talk to one of them if you know someone who would benefit from one. If you would like to join this group, who now meet at the Concorde, please contact Fern Gibbard at 250-490-8996.

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!

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 24 after church the Stewardship Committee is serving soup and a bun as a fundraiser. Suggested donation is \$6.00.

March 1 – World Day of Prayer service at Bethel Pentecostal Church at 2:00 pm. All are welcome and people from our congregation are taking part.

March 3 after the service. the Executive is hosting a pancake and sausage meal. This is by donation. We are celebrating what would normally be on Shrove Tuesday but because night time events are not well attended – who likes night driving – we are doing it on SUNDAY

March 9 – 9-3 The Wise Elders are hosting a workshop to be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church with the guest speaker and Facilitator Rev. Ross Lockhart. The workshop is entitled "Beyond Snakes and Shamrocks: St. Patricks Missional Leadership Lessons for Today"

March 10 - 10:00 am we will all be worshipping together at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Please note there will **not be a service at our church that day.** Our Wise Elders Group now includes the congregations of Oasis United, St. Andrews Presbyterian, St. Saviour's Anglican and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and PUC: a great group worshipping together and organizing yearly shared forums and services. Note the picnic on June 9 at Skaha Band Shell (not Naramata this year)

March 10 · 2pm fundraising concert for our church with Saskia and Darrel, The Great Plains. Fabulous Canadian music with Celtic, bluegrass, folk country and gospel flavors. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available after church and at the office.

March 29 and 31 at 2 pm Tune-Agers concert at the church. Watch for posters. Tickets will be available at the church.

March 30 – 9-3 Something new instead of Presbytery meetings we are hosting a Cluster gathering and workshop at the church. United Church people are invited from Peachland to Osoyoos, Princeton to Naramata and all in between. The Facilitator is Rev. Debra Bowman who has preached here. Allison Rennie will also be giving leadership. This is not a structured meeting but a time of learning, sharing and discussion. The theme is very appropriate for our time "Community of Faith: In Times Such as These"

Yard Sale!!!! May 4 we are having a yard sale at the church organized by the Stewardship Committee. I am sure they will need help so let them know if you can help. I mean what better way to meet new friends than sorting and pricing!!! There are 4 special areas at the sale: antique and collectables, books, fabric and sewing notions. Unfortunately there is no storage space at the church at present.

Resisting Temptation: having the coffee but not the doughnut!

Please mark these events on your calendar

March 1 2 pm World Day of Prayer at Bethel Pentecostal Church

March 3 after church Pancakes and sausage

March 6 **UCW MEETING CANCELLED**

March 9 9-3 Wise Elders Workshop facilitated by Rev. Ross Lockhart at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Theme: "Beyond Snakes

and Shamrocks:

St. Patricks Missional Leadership Lessons for Today"

March 10 10:00 Shared service at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church with speaker Rev. Ross Lockhart

March 10, 2:00 Concert with Saskia/Delaronde Great Plains

March 13	1-2:30 Lent Study Group. Explore what the scripture says about prayer
March 27	1-2:30 Lent Study Group. Explore what the scripture says about prayer
March 30	10-3 Cluster Event at PUC. Open to all. Theme: "Community of Faith: In Times Such as These" Facilitator: Rev. Debra Bowman and Allison Rennie
April 3	1-2:30 Lent Study Group. Explore what the scripture says about prayer
April 10	1-2:30 Lent Study Group. Explore what the scripture says about prayer
April 13	9-3 Council and committee members retreat at Marion Koziars, facilitators Joanne and Richard Simpson
May 4,	Yard Sale
May 5	After church – recognition of Fern Gibbard on her "retirement" from Licensed Lay Worship Leadership
June 1	Marcus Mosely workshop
June 2	2:00 Marcus Mosely fundraiser concert
June 4 (tentative)	7:00 Penticton Concert Band
June 9	After church: Wise Elders shared picnic at Skaha Lake Bandshell
June 16	Dr. Topping will be leading worship
August 4	Dr. Ross Lockhart will be leading worship

ODE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

*It's not for money, its not for fame
Its not for any personal gain.
Its just for the love of the human race,
Your rewards are in Heaven, in any case.*

*Its not for medals worn with pride.
Its not for anything, but how you feel inside.
It's the challenge to go the extra mile.
It's the satisfaction of seeing a big smile.*

*Its not the praises you may receive.
Its time, talent, and commitments that achieve.
Helping others whether far or near,
Is what makes you such a great volunteer!*

Marie Houston wrote this many years ago while working at the Soupeteria