

## Newsletter Jan 11/10

Good morning WUC friends. It's a "snowy and blowy" morning and I hope you are safe and warm somewhere. We had a wonderful worship service yesterday didn't we? I absolutely loved the choir's anthem, and Barry's postlude was .....fantastic! The banner at the front of the church featuring the Epiphany sunburst was lovely, and the Spirit was moving in all these ways and more. We are very blessed.

And speaking of blessing, we've started a **read-through of the beatitudes** here in these newsletters. Last week I simply asked you to consider what it means to be blessed. For this week, I'm suggesting two things: take a look at the versions of the Beatitudes by Matthew and Luke. Notice how they differ and how they are the same. If Bible study interests you, you might want to do a bit of research about why those differences are the way they are. If not, that's ok. Which version do you prefer and why, and reading the version that is NOT your preferred one, what light does that version shed for you? Any insights?

The gospels of Matthew and Luke were written around the same time, roughly 10 years after Mark wrote his (Mark is the earliest Gospel that we have, at least of those included in our Bible. Mark wrote around the year 65; 30 plus years after the resurrection). Matthew and Luke used common material and added their own as well. The Beatitudes were probably used for teaching purposes for new converts, and are included in both gospels in the "sermon on the mount" (Matthew) and "sermon on the plain" (Luke) Once again I've included both versions at the foot of this newsletter.

**For this week let's carry in our hearts and minds the first of Matthew's beatitudes**  
*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*  
**What will this week look like through that lens?**

Here are some things that you may want to know about coming up in our church life.

- 1) If you go to **our website** at [www.whitehorseunited.org](http://www.whitehorseunited.org) you will find the slideshow of the Christmas pageant. Thanks to Hank for all his hard work on this.
- 2) Saturday is our congregational **winterlude retreat**. It happens at Sundog retreat centre, and is meant to offer, as a gift to those who attend, a time of silence, meditation, mindfulness and community. There is still time to register. Please call Joy Wickett at 667 2783 or [jazzmaize@yahoo.ca](mailto:jazzmaize@yahoo.ca)
- 3) Yesterday was the first gathering of folks interested in a **dessert theater**. We read through most of the script; enough for people to get a sense of what it will be like, and if they are interested. There is still room for you to come in if you wish. I can email you a script if you ask. The next meeting will be after church Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Please note that I will do my best to accommodate schedules and preferences when it comes to casting and practice times. Presently we are thinking of presenting the show around the first of May.
- 4) This coming Sunday is **Communion**. Please think of those who are shut in and might like me to take communion to them in their homes. Let me know who I should go to, please.

- 5) This coming Sunday also, after church, a meeting for those interested in starting a **book club**...come prepared with suggestions for our first book, and your daytimer so we can choose a meeting time.
- 6) Finally for this coming Sunday, at 4 pm there will be an ecumenical worship service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. It will be held at the Lutheran church.
- 7) We're hoping to have a **combined choir for this service** (meaning folks from different churches) Anyone interested in singing the anthem with us is welcome to come to choir practice Wednesday at 7:30. The anthem will be The Lord's My Shepherd to the tune Crimond.
- 8) I'll be away from Jan 18-21, attending the meeting of the Conference committee on internships and educational supervision
- 9) Our **Financial Annual General Meeting** will be Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – please note that this meeting is not only for those on committees; nor is it only for members. It is an annual accountability and reporting meeting, where the folks to whom we have entrusted our financial matters report to us and ask for our input and we seek vision for the future. They have undertaken this ministry and they need our support and input. Please come if you are able.
- 10) Please note that the book study on **Spirituality of Extroverts** has been **postponed** until further notice; probably the spring.
- 11) **Lights, camera, popcorn . . .**

*Overwhelmed by the choices at the video store? Tired of taking home what looks like a winner only to find out it's a total dud*

Join us on Thursday, 28 January (and every second or fourth Thursday thereafter, to be determined), at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room for a movie, a bowl of popcorn, and a discussion.

The first film will be chosen by CBC Yukon's former long-time movie reviewer, Karen Walker. Karen is known for finding movie store gems that have not had the hype of the blockbusters but are guaranteed to deliver. You might laugh, cry, or both. You might be surprised, shocked, enthralled, outraged, moved, educated, dismayed, thrilled, or scared. You will not be bored or disappointed. Money-back guarantee!

Parents, please note that films will be chosen with adults in mind. (No, not *that* kind of adult film!) In some cases, films will have been produced in a language other than English and will be sub-titled. See you at the movies!

## The Launch of our Church Blog

With the start of the new year and the new decade, it's a great time for new beginnings. So, this blog has been launched. You can click on the link on our church's website homepage, or go directly to [www.whitehorseunited.blogspot.com](http://www.whitehorseunited.blogspot.com). There will be directions there for how to make comments. We hope it can become a place to highlight events, to tell some stories, or share interesting snippets of information. And also to ask some

questions and generate discussion through the 'comments' feature unique to a blog. If you have any suggestions for other things that can be included here, or how our blog may be improved, let us know.

## **AN EPIPHANY MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR**

Epiphany 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

I trust that like me you have been "overwhelmed with joy" during the season of Advent and Christmas. My heart was stirred by stories of people gathered in inspiring worship and work, including congregations ringing bells for climate justice from coast to coast to coast on December 13. Here are just a few comments I received on my blog:

My 7 year old daughter and I rang jingle bells at a downtown intersection in London on Sunday-in response to the suggestion from our minister.... I felt quite alone there on the curb, but she was quite comfortable. You see, I was raised to not make a fuss-she is being raised to raise a fuss.

-hopefulinlondon

bells were ringing in Saskatchewan

-Crazyheart (and many similar comments from across Canada)

A small, determined bunch of people carried signs and a banner and rang church bells and hand bells down Newmarket's Main Street on Sunday afternoon as our act of solidarity.... No press, no crowds. A few passing motorists honked in response to our signs-very gratifying. We thought of how foolish we must look on a wet, dreary Sunday afternoon, and the size of the challenge facing those who know and care, and re-committed ourselves to action.

-Robin Wardlaw

And so we arrive at Epiphany, the manifestation of the Divine, when the wise ones were overwhelmed with joy under Bethlehem's bright star. Then they were "warned in a dream not to return to Herod, [so] they left for their own country by another road" (Matthew 2:12). We too have been overwhelmed with the joy of the Christ child, and we cannot return to Herod. We must leave for God's own country-by another road.

Many accounts of this century's first decade have noted increasing levels of fear, anxiety, and, as Robert Sibley recently wrote in the Ottawa Citizen, "moral panic." Sibley suggests, in his December 26 column, that as citizens we have become anxious and uncertain to the point that panic is overtaking our moral courage.

Some of you have expressed surprise at the strong note of hope within my song of lament about the disappointing results of the climate change talks in Copenhagen. Yet our choice is clear: to return to a familiar way of fear, anxiety, and lack of imaginative faith-or to understand that Spirit calls us to leave by another road for a country marked by the hope with which Christ has blessed us, a hope that enables us to participate in God's abundant healing of soul, community, and creation. A choice, in short, between moral panic and moral courage.

In concert with you and others of our extraordinary community in The United Church of Canada, I intend to leave by another road, to nourish imaginative faith and courageous action with you, by God's grace. Our church is well known for moral courage, and I know that we will travel this road together.

What will it mean for you to bring the Christ child's message of joyful freedom and moral courage into this year? How will you live the Christian story of life over death, hope over fear, abundance over scarcity? How will you travel by another road to God's realm of peace, justice, and the integrity of creation?

For my part, as you know, I view the ecological crisis represented by climate and ocean change as the greatest moral challenge of our age. The time has come, I believe, for all of us in the United Church, with other faith communities, to demonstrate transformative leadership on this issue. And in the next few weeks, I will be inviting your participation in this leadership. Watch for suggestions and materials about wholeness and healing of soul, community, and creation.

But for now, Christ is born! We are overwhelmed with joy. We cannot return to business as usual. I look forward to hearing your stories. Perhaps you'd like to join me in conversation on my regular blog, found through [www.united-church.ca/moderator](http://www.united-church.ca/moderator).

We are overwhelmed by joy-and will travel together by another road.

Epiphany Blessings,

Moderator Mardi Tindal

**BELOW I HAVE INCLUDED A LETTER I RECEIVED TODAY ...IT EXPLAINS ITSELF AND I OFFER IT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.**

BETHANY CHURCH

**W.O.W.**

women of  
wisdom

January 2, 2010

To whom it may concern:

We are a group of Yukon women who have a vision for the young women of the North. Throughout our territory, young women are making unwise and harmful life decisions based on a poor perception of themselves. Our vision is to help them recognize and reclaim their value, their potential and their beauty. We want to invest in the next generation.

To accomplish this, we began in November 2009 by hosting a special evening of fun at the Canada Games Centre for high school age girls called “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!” We invited Andrea Critchley, a singer/songwriter and the Women’s Director of W2W BC and Yukon District, to join us from Vancouver for the evening. The attendance was approximately sixty girls, and we believe they really enjoyed themselves.

We are following up with a conference called “Radiant” during the weekend of January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The conference will be held at Mount McIntyre and starts with a Friday evening performance by musical guest Heather Jacobson from Vancouver. On the Saturday, we will be taking in presentations by Andrea Critchley, once again, as well as our musician Heather Jacobson and others. Lunch will be provided for the girls who attend, and we expect and hope to have over one hundred. Through this conference and our previous event, our hope is to connect with these girls, confirm their worth and have a fun time together.

To make this coming weekend conference a success, we are requesting your help. We ask that you join with us and invest in the lives and futures of these young women. A gift of \$25.00 ensures one entrance fee to “Radiant” for a teenage girl, and includes lunch costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amalie Young  
Promotions  
W.O.W. Women’s Ministries  
Bethany Church  
91806 Alaska Hwy  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 5B7  
867.456.4984

### **Matthew 5: 1-12 – The Beatitudes**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God/  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness; sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Luke 6: 20-26 – The Beatitudes**

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:  
Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh..  
Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you and defame you on account of the Son of Man.  
Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.  
But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.  
Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.  
Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep  
Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.