

Newsletter, Week of Jan 25th 2010

Good day my friends.

We've been looking at the beatitudes together; trying to see what life might look like through the lens of Jesus' sayings on what makes life blessed. I wonder where that took your heart this past week? We were particularly holding the second beatitude in mind. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted". I've had some good conversations with people about that one this week. One of the themes that kept emerging is what a blessing it is, when someone we love has died, to have a family of faith. The comfort of being in a church; hearing the music and being surrounded by the loving support (often expressed by gifts of food) is comfort that we don't realize until we're going through it. It makes me glad that we can offer that to people.

I've included the text of Matthew and Luke at the bottom of this email again for your reference. One bit of textual information: In Hebrew there are two words that are both translated "blessed". One is "ashre" and it means a general sense of wellbeing; being happy, and in tune with God and the creation. It's always used of humans, never of God. And it's the word used in Psalms 1 and 128 for example. The second word is "berakah" and it is used of God, and of humans; it describes what God does to us and among us....even in awful times, even in pain and doubt, God is there among us. That is the word used in the beatitudes. We are blessed in the sense that regardless of life's circumstances at any given time, we live in a larger reality; we are surrounded and held by love, and so we can live out of a deep place; an inner strength of the soul.

So for this week; **"Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth"**

Carry this with you as you move through the week, noticing what light it may shed on your daily life. Blessings as you do so.

Now, here are some announcements from the life of WUC this week

Three items to begin: First, I will be away on course and some holiday time from Feb 1 to 17. I will be available through email during that time if you use this address:

bcsbrazier@live.ca.

Second, I would love to do a **Lenten Bible study**. I'm having trouble finding an appropriate time. Please let me know if Monday nights and/or Sunday afternoons would be a good time. It looks as though those are the only times I have in my own schedule. And third: I've decided to begin including in these letters some information about the way the church is structured. I had quite a few conversations coming up to last week's AGM from newcomers re. what an AGM is, why there are two here, and how the structure works. So for this time, I've cut and pasted from the constitution of WUC (currently under review) some introductory information. In future newsletters I will feature the work of individual committees.

Now the announcements:

- 1) **Our elevator** is broken and as of this date, the problem is larger than we anticipated. For now, it is unusable and we do apologize for the inconvenience.
- 2) **Annual Financial General Meeting** was held yesterday after church. The budget was amended and passed; our M&S goal was approved at 27,500 for the year. Total budgeted income is 206, 725. Total budgeted expenses 224, 395.19, for a deficit budget of 17, 670.19.
- 3) **JOYFUL NOISE:** The following was sent to me by Beth Roberts. She asked that I let you know. Please pray about this – it's very important.

There are several upcoming Sundays in which there are no leaders for the children K-2 and grade 3-5 . Unfortunately, if we do not have a leader, the children will have to stay upstairs. If you are able to help out please contact Kelly Pollard at 333-0334 or yukoners@gmail.com

- 4) **Movie Night** Thursday Jan 28th – 7 pm at the church, upper room. DOES ANYONE HAVE A PROJECTOR? Please get in touch with Karen Walker at 633 5726 if so.
- 5) **Saturday Jan 30th** at 10:30 at the church: training for those who serve or would like to serve communion. This will last until noon. Please let us know if you plan to attend.
- 6) After church Sunday Jan 31, several things are happening.
 - a) Greeters/ushers lunch. Please call Joy Wickett for details.
 - b) Anyone interested in the Dessert Theater will meet after church. We'll set a date for the show and do some casting if possible.
 - c) Junior choir will NOT meet; but rather will wait until Bev gets back in February
- 7) **Book club.** Anyone is most welcome to join us, or simply to read along with us whether or not you attend meetings. The book is **Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky**, and we'll meet to discuss it on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30. The first meeting will be **Wed, Feb 24th**. At the church, in the upper room. We'll take turns suggesting books, so that we get a broad range of material.
- 8) **Call for proposals to be funded by the Herb and Dorreene Wahl Memorial Fund:** There is money available from the Herb and Dorreene Wahl Memorial Fund. Two types of projects are eligible for funding: General Training and Music Training. Both need to show a benefit to Whitehorse United Church or its members.

If you have an idea which might be able to use this money please get in touch with Bev or the following people:

For General Training: Mark McCullough and/or Vanessa Thorson

For Music Training: Jennifer Moorlag, Sue Edelman, Derek Yap, or Carl Rumscheidt

\$7600 is available now and \$5,700 will be available shortly.

Please start thinking about how we could use this money and run your ideas past these people.

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.

FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF WHITEHORSE UNITED CHURCH

CONGREGATION / PASTORAL CHARGE

2.1 AUTHORITY

The structure of the United Church of Canada is:

Congregation, Pastoral Charge, Presbytery, Conference, and General Council.

The congregation is the most important governing body in the local pastoral charge. It elects the Council, which is responsible to the congregation, to make decisions on its behalf regarding the ongoing work of the pastoral charge.

2.2 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

A Financial Annual General Meeting shall be held in January or February of each year to, among other things, approve the financial reports and the budget of W.U.C. A General Congregational Meeting shall be held in May or June of each year to, among other things, hear committee reports and elect the officers of the church. Special congregational meetings may be held at the call of the Chair of the congregation, in consultation with the Council.

A quorum shall be the lesser of 20 persons or one third of the voting members of the congregation.

2.3 ELECTIONS

The operations of Whitehorse United Church shall be conducted by individuals elected by the congregation. Only full members of Whitehorse United Church are eligible for election. The positions to be elected and their terms are:

1. Chair of the Congregation - one year term, renewable indefinitely: **currently this is Joanne Fairlie**
2. Secretary of the Congregation - one year term, renewable indefinitely: **currently this is Sheila Maissan**
3. Trustees - up to fifteen **currently these are: Fred Smith, Aliceanne Pearson, Hank Moorlag, Donna Shopland and Paul Goldsmith**(for an indefinite term):
4. Presbytery Representative and one alternate (for a 1 year term, renewable indefinitely): **Harris Cox, Ralph Shopland and Vanessa Thorson as alternate**
5. Treasurer (for a 1 year term, renewable indefinitely): **and we have no treasurer at present. The work is done by a team. We are looking for a treasurer**
6. Council Members - eleven (for a 1 year term, renewable for a maximum of three terms. Following a one year absence from Council, during which the individual may serve in any other capacity outside of Council, the member is again eligible for election to Council.)**currently these are: Joy Wickett, Carole Williams, Harris Cox, Sheila Stockton, Mark McCullough, Vanessa Thorson, Brenda Dedon, Jennifer Moorlag and Ralph Shopland**

2.4 TERM OF OFFICE

All elected positions shall run from July 1st to June 30th.

2.5 OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

2.5.1 CHAIR

The Chair will call and preside over all congregational meetings.

The Chair may also serve in other positions but may not be the Chair of Council.

2.5.2 SECRETARY

The Secretary will take the minutes of each meeting and prepare them for distribution to the congregation within two weeks.

2.5.3 TREASURER

The treasurer shall be responsible for:

- the keeping of the financial records of the church
- the receipt of monies
- the timely payment of all accounts and allocations, and
- the preparation of monthly and annual financial statements of operations for review by the Finance Committee and Council.

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. The treasurer shall be a member but not chair of the Finance Committee.

2.5.4 PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE

The Presbytery Representative shall attend the meetings of our Presbytery and Conference, and shall report our doings to them, in co-operation with the ministerial staff. Following each meeting, the Representative shall submit a report to the Council and to the congregation. Should the Representative be unable to attend a meeting, the alternate shall take over these duties for that meeting.