

Newsletter, Week of February 1, 2010

Good day my friends. It's February already – I can hardly believe I've been among you 6 months now. And the winter – I know it's not over but where did it go???

I'll be gone to Saskatoon from Feb 1-17th. Part of this is a continuing education course, which I'll tell you about when I get home. Part of it is family time because my sister Bette and her daughter Kali live there. You are welcome to contact me there at bcsbrazier@live.ca.

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 third beatitude in mind. "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth". I'm told that the word "meek" has the sense, in Hebrew and Aramaic, of being gentle, humble, (and of course "humble" means "one with the earth"...the same root for humus/humble/exhume/human...it all means "earth"). Being meek is being soft inside, so that we can absorb what the earth has to offer.

I've included the text of Matthew and Luke at the bottom of this email again for your reference.

So for this week; **"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled"**

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

I would love to do a **Lenten Bible study**. The present suggestions are: Monday nights from 6-7 and/or Wednesdays at noon. I would be more than willing to do both, so people can have a choice. Let me know what you think.

You'll know from last week's newsletter that I've decided to begin including in these letters some information about the way the church is structured. We'll remind ourselves about the committees and their mandates, beginning with the Trustees, simply working our way through the constitution as it presently stands.

Now the announcements:

- 1) **Our elevator** is fixed! YAY! Thank you to those involved. Please remember never leave it on the bottom floor; always return it to the second floor if you use it.
- 2) **YAY again:** as of Jan 29th, the funds collected for Haiti through our congregation total \$4420. In talking with National Office we discovered that the deadline for matching funding is indeed Feb 12th, and further, they only match donations from individuals. As a result we've sent our donations itemized by individual donations in order to maximize the financial benefit

- 3) Worship committee meets Tuesday Feb 2nd at 5:15
- 4) Council meets Feb 9th
- 5) **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!! Tuesday Feb 16th**. We need lots of help in every way.(set up and clean up crews, plate scrapers, dishwashers, food servers, and so on. Please note that the menu includes pancakes of course, made from sourdough starter from the Chilkooot Trail. Also: ham, pie and beverages. Our proceeds will go to Haiti.

Dessert Theatre: will be Saturday night May 1st. I still need actors. Please contact Bev if you would like to look at the script.

- 6) **Movie Night** Please get in touch with Karen Walker at 633 5726

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.

Call for proposals to be funded by the Herb and Doreene Wahl Memorial Fund:

There is money available from the Herb and Doreene 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 it is likely that another \$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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees	Fred Smith (Chair)	667 2871
	Aliceanne Pearson	668 4267
	Hank Moorlag	633 3881
	Donna Shopland	633 2256
	Paul Goldsmith	456 4319

DUTIES

The Board of Trustees shall carry out all duties and procedures prescribed for it in "The Manual of the United Church of Canada". In summary:

1. hold the property in trust for the use of the congregation, and for the purposes approved by the congregation and/or Council, and for the support and maintenance of public worship :
2. erect and repair buildings :
3. permit the use of church buildings for church, manse and Sunday school purposes, with the approval of the Council :
4. allow any manse property held by the congregation to be let :
5. sell, buy, mortgage, exchange, or lease the trust property, but only with the written consent of Presbytery, and in accordance with the provisions set down in the Manual :

6. develop and implement policies for the administration of trust funds :
7. keep proper accounts and records of all meetings and actions :
8. receive funds from the congregation for the payment of principal and interest of any mortgage, since a mortgage on church property is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees :
9. make plans for the retirement of all mortgages, to be submitted to the congregation for approval and implementation, and :
10. notify Presbytery should the congregation cease to exist as an organized body, and to make such arrangements for the disposition of property as are necessary. The funds from such disposition will be used as Conference shall decide.