

## Newsletter, Week of Feb 15 2010

Hello from Saskatoon! I'm writing this Sunday evening Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, and I hope that you all had a great Valentine's Day. There is so much love in the world; so many ways it comes into our lives, and so many people who need it, too. I pray that the day was a celebration of Love; its many forms and its patient persistence.

My sources tell me that the young people of our church did a wonderful job at leading worship this morning. Thank you to them and to their leaders, and to all of you who came to support them and to worship together. I wish I could have been there.

I'M INCLUDING WITH THIS NEWSLETTER A SEPARATE DOCUMENT IN WHICH I HAVE WRITTEN SOME OF WHAT I LEARNED ON THE COURSE I ATTENDED LAST WEEK. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS YOU ARE WELCOME, OTHERWISE, SIMPLY DELETE. AGAIN, MY THEORY IS THAT IT'S BETTER TO SHARE INFORMATION AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AND LET THE RECIPIENTS PICK AND CHOOSE FROM AMONG THE ITEMS. I'D RATHER DO THAT THAN HOARD INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL OR INTERESTING.

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 fifth beatitude in mind. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy". One of the things I did this past week was to go to the movie *Invictus*, about Nelson Mandela; the experience of his coming to power in South Africa. I was watching partly through the eyes of that beatitude.

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 the pure in heart, for they shall see God**" It may be helpful for you to know that for the Hebrew culture, the heart was the seat of the will and the intellect, as opposed to the seat of emotion as it is for us in this culture. Does that make a difference to how you read it?

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**

**The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is this evening. It's an annual fundraiser for the church and it's also a delicious meal. We serve (we think) the best sourdough pancakes going! And we can always use more help so hope you can come!**

**Lenten Bible study.** Thanks to those of you who responded to my question about what would be a good time. I have tried to take your feedback into account and so this is how it will happen:

During Lent, beginning NEXT WEEK there will be two chances for Bible Study each week; Mondays at 5:15-6 pm and Tuesdays, a breakfast Bible Study at 7:15 (by “breakfast” I mean muffins and coffee.) I would add another on Sunday afternoon if there is need. To get ready for that Bible Study I’m giving you homework already. The Bible Study will begin by a read through of the passion narratives in each of the four gospels. Where we go from there will depend on how long it takes us to read the texts through. We’ll begin with the Gospel of Mark, (since his gospel is the first, chronologically). If you wish, you can prepare by reading Mark, chapters 11-15 inclusive.

Next week I will attach to this newsletter a copy of those chapters, with some added commentary of my own. Feel free to use it, or not.

During Lent as well there will be Wednesday worship at 12:15 – 12:45; a simple format of music, silence, and readings. Even though we are not having an Ash Wednesday service (this year) there are services in other churches and we encourage you to begin Lent by attending one of those

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. Many people have given good feedback on this. Thanks for that. It can never hurt to remind ourselves of our own structures, and to introduce newcomers to the way we do things here.

**Now the announcements:**

***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 that might help us to use this money please get in touch with Bev or the following people:

**For General Training: Mark McCullough or Vanessa Thorson**

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

**\$22,600 is available. Please start thinking about how we could use this money, and run your ideas past these people.**

**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 24<sup>th</sup>**. At the church, in the Upper Room. We’ll take turns suggesting books, so that we get a broad range of material.

### **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**

**COMMITTEES** (*this is a general description for all committees; specific committees will be highlighted separately, beginning next week*)

### **4.1 MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who is involved in the life and work of the congregation is eligible to be a member of any committee except the Ministry & Personnel Committee, which requires membership in the church. Candidates for committees shall be solicited by the Nominating Committee, or may volunteer independently. A committee has the power to add members as it sees fit, and such people will have voting rights within the committee. The new members' names shall be submitted to Council for ratification. A committee may set up ad hoc sub-committees, which are responsible to that committee. Every effort should be made to have in the membership of each committee a broad representation of the whole congregation. Council must ratify the appointment of all committee members. The minister is ex officio a member of every committee, except the Ministry & Personnel Committee. It is recommended that each committee shall have a minimum of 5 members in addition to designated representatives.

### **4.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Committees shall elect annually, following the Annual General Meeting, a chair and secretary from amongst themselves. The Council representative may, but need not be, either chair or secretary.
2. The Chair shall call regular meetings and preside over them.
3. The Secretary shall:
  - keep a minute book
  - submit a copy of the minutes to the church office within two weeks of each meeting
  - circulate the minutes to all Committee members

The church office will provide help as requested.

4. Committees are free to set their own frequency of meetings, so long as their tasks are being accomplished and there is no lack of communication within or outside the Committee. Regular monthly meetings are recommended.
5. Each Committee shall establish a workable quorum for itself.

### **4.3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each Committee is responsible for carrying out the duties listed below {1-2} those mandated for that committee in this Constitution, plus any directions given to it by Council.

1. All Committees are responsible for submitting an annual budget to the Finance Committee. Any proposed expenses in excess of the approved budget for that committee must be presented to Council, through the Finance Committee, for approval.
2. Each Committee shall prepare a report for the Annual Report, and is encouraged to communicate its activities through the church newsletters.