

## Newsletter, Week of February 22, 2010

Hello this Monday Morning of Lent, my friends.

I'm home again as you know, and the first thing I want to say is thank you for providing me with the opportunity for continuing education. The course is called a "winter refresher" and it lived up to its name in every way. I truly appreciate that you provide me with the time to refresh myself in that way. Last week's newsletter included a separate document of my notes from that course and some of you have contacted me for interesting discussions about them. I love that kind of conversation – thank you.

While I was gone, the services were more than ably led by Derek, Jennifer, Alison, Beth and the young people of our church family. Thank you so much to all of you.

Also, the **pancake supper was a success**. Mary Lou reports over 40 helpers in all, and that the amount raised was over 1800. This, once expenses are paid, will go to Haiti relief. Thanks to everyone who helped.

We're continuing exploring the beatitudes together; trying to see what life might look like through the lens of Jesus' sayings on what makes life blessed. Through Lent, we'll continue that practice.

To add to that, I'm going to include with this newsletter a separate document for your use if you wish. It will be the text of the Bible study we'll be doing through Lent. Essentially it will be the Biblical text of each of the Gospel writers' versions of the passion narrative. Beginning with Mark, (who wrote first of the four gospels we have included in our Bible) we'll simply read through each version of the last week of Jesus' life. I have copied it from the New Revised Standard translation, and included, in CAPS, my own comments throughout. Whether you can get to any of the Bible studies, this may be of some assistance in your own Bible study at home or with others. There is a quiz to reinforce the factual details of the stories, that will be included on the website and you may want to check that out as well. [www.whitehorseunited.org](http://www.whitehorseunited.org)

THE BIBLE STUDIES THROUGH LENT WILL BE MONDAYS AT 5:15 AND TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 7:15, WITH A LIGHT BREAKFAST OF COFFEE AND MUFFINS.

AS WELL, THERE WILL BE WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT NOON, (12:15-12:45) simply silence, readings and prayer.

Back to the Beatitudes: I wonder where that took your heart this past week? We were particularly holding the fifth beatitude in mind. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God".

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 peacemakers, for they will be called children of God ”**

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.

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:**

**THE FIRST AND ONE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE IS THAT THERE IS A JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH EVENT IN ALBERTA MARCH 12-14 AND IF WE ARE GOING TO SEND YOUNG PEOPLE WE WILL NEED CHAPERONES. BEFORE I GET THE KIDS' HOPES UP – IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD CONSIDER CHAPERONING???**  
**GET TO ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN PLEASE.**

**Please note that the office will be closed on Friday this week, for Heritage Day.**

**Dessert Theatre:** the date for this had been set for May 1<sup>st</sup>. However, this now seems impossible for people who want to be involved. Please let me know if you think otherwise, but it seems to me that we need to wait until fall. Anyone who would like to be involved, please let me know soon. My current hope is that we can do it in September.

**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.

Bev will be away (Yes, AGAIN!) from Thursday until Sunday this week, at Presbytery. The service on Sunday will have a Rendez-Vous theme and be led by Sheila Maissan.

Monday March 1 – **Bible Study**, 5:15 pm at the church in the upper room

Tuesday, March 2 – **Bible Study** 7:15 am in the upper room  
**Worship committee** meets at 5:15

Wednesday March 3 – **Lenten worship**, 12:15-12:45 in the sanctuary

**Ecumenical Men's breakfast** at Northern Apostles in Porter Creek. 7 am.

Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm at Riverdale Baptist Church – **World Day of Prayer service**. This is a worldwide ecumenical service. In Canada it is coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. This year the service has been prepared by the people of Cameroon and the theme is: "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God". It is vitally important that we seize every opportunity to build ecumenical relationships, and worshipping together is the perfect beginning. Please come to this service if you are able.

**Movie Night : Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm at the home of Karen Walker and Wayne Tuck.** 42 Bell Crescent Riverdale. 633 5726 if you need directions.

**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

\$23,000 is available. Please start thinking about how we could use this money and run your ideas past these people.

This week, we received in the mail two packets of information from National office and also from Conference Office. I have sorted it and tried to present it in a way that makes sense. Here goes! Please note that often you can get more information by checking out the bulletin board in the upper room or by watching our website at [www.whitehorseunited.org](http://www.whitehorseunited.org)

#### COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

- 1) FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN JUNIOR HIGH –see below. March 12-14<sup>th</sup>
- 2) FEAR, FAITH AND FINDING GOD IN THE MIDST OF A HECTIC LIFE – with David Giuliano, 39<sup>th</sup> Moderator of the United Church. June 8-10 at Kasota East Camp, Sylvan Lake Alberta. [www.unitedchurchyouth.ca](http://www.unitedchurchyouth.ca) or 403-885-4780 for more details.
- 3) ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PRESENTS several courses in 2010 including: Art Therapy Studio, Introduction to Jungian Psychology, Living with Respect in Creation, Introduction to Theology, Science and Religion in Dialogue, and Intro to Christian Scriptures. Call toll free at 1-800-661-4956 or [www.ualberta.ca/St.Stephens/](http://www.ualberta.ca/St.Stephens/)
- 4) Western Women's Conference: for women of all ages, a time to be nourished and inspired. Keynote presenters Omega Bula and Donna Sinclair. Music leader Barb Myers. Sept 24-26 or Sept 27-29, Naramata Centre. [info@naramatacentre.net](mailto:info@naramatacentre.net) or 250 496 5751

- 5) For United Church Men: the Dondi Project is a fabulous one, partnering with men in Angola to rebuild a school and build ecumenical and international relationships. For more information, see [www.dondiproject.com](http://www.dondiproject.com) or call Lloyd Paul at 1-800-268-3781 x4046

#### FOR YOUTH

- 1) JUNIOR HIGH WEEKEND MARCH 12-14
- 2) THE GO PROJECT 2010 - A youth mission program organized for the wider church by Islington United Church. Young people participate in a community-focused children's program, reach out to youth through community programming, shelters and street cafes, support seniors and newcomers through community clean up and home projects, practice pastoral skills through visiting, serve the basic needs of community members through food programs, learn about the environment through community awareness projects, all while living in community with new friends and old. FOR YOUTH GRADE 9 TO AGE 19 AND THEIR LEADERS. OFFERED IN TORONTO, HALIFAX AND VANCOUVER. CONTACT MICHAEL SHEWBURG 416-239-1131 X31 OR [THEGOPROJECT.CA/THEGOPROJECT@ISLINGTONUNITED.ORG](mailto:THEGOPROJECT.CA/THEGOPROJECT@ISLINGTONUNITED.ORG)

#### WHAT'S ONLINE?

- 1) Please check out our own website at [www.whitehorseunited.org](http://www.whitehorseunited.org). Among other things there are pictures of community life here at WUC, sermons, and a link to our new blog. Check it out!
- 2) The website of the United Church of Canada will take you all kinds of places! [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)
- 3) World Religions Summit: Interfaith Leaders in the G8 Nations. In June 2010 the annual G8 meeting of some of the world's most powerful political leaders will be held in Huntsville, Ontario. A parallel event focusing on global justice issues, The World Religions Summit, will be held in Winnipeg. The United Church is an active partner in organizing this. [www.faiithchallengeg8.com](http://www.faiithchallengeg8.com)
- 4) Becoming an Intercultural Church – explore various articles that will stir your imagination about what it means to become intercultural church. [www.united-church.ca/intercultural/becoming](http://www.united-church.ca/intercultural/becoming)

#### 2012 BULLETIN PHOTOS

Submit photos to be included as bulletin covers. Deadline June 4<sup>th</sup> 2010. For more details, see the office.

### **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.

#### 4.4 CHRISTIAN GROWTH COMMITTEE

**Goal: To deepen and nurture the Christian spiritual commitment of our church members and adherents by offering opportunities for learning and growth.**

In addition to members at large, each program and fellowship group will have representation on the Christian Growth Committee.

##### **DUTIES :**

1. Identify and assess the needs of the congregation and establish realistic goals to develop programs to meet those needs :
2. Promote, guide, encourage and support Christian fellowship and program groups of the congregation. This includes congregation-wide activities and small special interest groups :
3. Promote opportunities for leadership training that fosters spiritual growth and commitment :
4. Oversee the process of selecting curriculum materials for the Sunday School and other groups :
5. Provide support to Church School co-ordinators :
6. Arrange for programs of preparation for candidates for baptism, confirmation (renewal of baptismal faith), marriage, membership by transfer or by reaffirmation of faith :
7. Provide materials and equipment to support the various groups of the congregation :
8. Encourage and oversee the development, use and maintenance of the church resource centre.

<b>Christian Growth Committee Jennifer Moorlag (chair)</b>	<b>456-2716</b>
<b>Joy Wickett</b>	<b>667-2783</b>
<b>Michael McBride</b>	<b>633 2232</b>
<b>Lauren Muir</b>	<b>456 7848</b>