

Newsletter, Week of Feb 8 2010

Hello from Saskatoon! It's Monday and already from several people I've heard what a wonderful worship service you had yesterday, with Derek and Jennifer in leadership. We are so very blessed to have people with the spirit and willingness to share their gifts in so many ways.

I'm here 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 here. It's great to spend time with them. You are welcome to contact me here 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 fourth beatitude in mind. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled".

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 merciful, for they shall obtain mercy**"

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. **What about a breakfast Bible Study? Would that work?**

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:

Council meets tonight at 7:15

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.

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 Chilcoot 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.

Has anyone had a chance to read the latest Observer? (For those who may not be aware, The Observer is the national magazine of the United Church of Canada, and the recipient of many awards for journalism) In the February issue there are articles on: faith and science,(called “Infinite Sanctuary: as our knowledge of the universe expands, will our understanding of God keep pace?”) the challenges for soldiers returning from Afghanistan and our pastoral response, and an interview with Christian Schwarz, a German researcher, who outlines 8 characteristics of growing churches. (I’d love to read this article together, then discuss it as it relates to our own church, and perhaps set some goals related to things he highlights. Read it for yourselves and see what you think. Is this a possibility for us as a congregation?) Briefly, the 8 characteristics of what he calls Natural Church Development, are: *empowering leadership, gift-based ministry, connecting with God, effective structures, inspiring worship, needs-based evangelism, holistic small groups, and loving relationships.*

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

\$13,000 is available. 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 THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council	Joy Wickett (Chair)	667-2783
	Carole Williams	633 2018
	Harris Cox	668 2827
	Sheila Stockton	667 7067
	Mark McCullough	660 4477
	Vanessa Thorson	456 4877
	Brenda Dedon	633-3216
	Jennifer Moorlag	456-2716
	Ralph Shopland (P'by Rep)	633 2256
	(Treasurer)	Vacant

3.1 PURPOSE

Council is the coordinating body that keeps the total mission of the congregation in proper perspective. This is done by envisioning, planning and overseeing the work of Whitehorse United Church, within the framework of the United Church of Canada, as outlined in "The Manual of the United Church of Canada".

3.2 DUTIES

1. oversee the work of the committees including the Christian Growth Committee, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Community Life Committee, Worship Committee, Nominating Committee, Discipleship Committee (now called the Social Justice Committee), and the Property Management Committee as standing committees of Church Council and create special committees as the need dictates :
2. receive and judge petitions and appeals from members :
3. transmit petitions and appeals to Presbytery :
4. recommend suitable candidates for the order of ministry :
5. present an annual budget to the congregation for approval :
6. establish guidelines, and fees when applicable, for the use of church facilities by congregational and outside groups, and review them annually :
7. be responsible for the recruitment, selection and replacement of non-ministerial staff, and :
8. attend to all matters affecting the pastoral charge including the responsibilities of the Official Board and the Session not assigned to any of the other bodies.

3.3 COMPOSITION AND WORKING OF COUNCIL

1. Council shall consist of the following voting members:
 - 11 members elected at large by the congregation
 - the ministerial staff
 - the Presbytery Representative
 - the treasurer
 - one representative appointed by each of Board of Trustees, and Youth Group.
2. Council shall choose its chair and secretary from amongst the 11 members elected at large, and assign each of the remaining members to be the council representative of one of the following committees:
 - Christian Growth Committee (Christian Education Committee)
 - Discipleship Committee (Social Justice Committee)
 - Finance Committee (Stewardship Committee)
 - Ministry and Personnel Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Community Life Committee
 - Property Management Committee (Stewardship Committee)
 - Worship Committee
3. Council shall normally meet monthly, and no less than 10 times per year.
4. All members are expected to attend all meetings. Council cannot achieve its primary function of co-ordination and communication without full attendance. In the event that the Council Representative from a committee cannot attend, the Representative is expected to arrange for another member of that committee to attend that Council meeting. Such a substitute will present the committee report, and report Council's deliberations back to the committee, but does not have a vote in Council.

5. A quorum shall be one third of the voting members and must include either the Minister (settled or appointed to the pastoral charge) or an appointee of Presbytery.

3.4 OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

3.4.1 CHAIR

In consultation with the minister, the Chair shall call Council meetings and preside over them. In the event of the Chair's absence, the Council will choose a temporary chair to preside for that meeting only. The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees.

3.4.2 SECRETARY

The Secretary shall record the minutes and the incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Council. The Secretary shall notify members of all meetings, distribute minutes (including a copy to the church office), send other correspondence as directed by the Council, and maintain the roll of the Council.

3.4.3 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee Representatives shall report the progress and recommendations of their committees to the Council at Council meetings. They shall similarly communicate the decisions and directions of the Council to their respective committees.