

## Newsletter, Week of March 1, 2010

Hello this Monday Morning of Lent, my friends.

While I was gone, the service was more than ably led by Sheila – thank you so much.

Did you hear I was in jail last week? It's true – check out our blog [www.whitehorseunited.blogspot.com](http://www.whitehorseunited.blogspot.com) for pictures.

I'm newly home from **Presbytery** and thankful for the opportunity to serve in that way but also to be home again with you. Some good things happened at Presbytery and you'll be hearing more from Ralph Shopland and from me very soon. Ralph, along with Harris Cox, is your elected delegate to Presbytery.

Just by way of review, this is what Presbytery is: a regional group or cluster of churches. For us, it involves all Yukon, NWT and the northern churches of Alberta and BC. Each church sends its ordered ministry people and elected lay people to represent them. Whereas in some churches, it is the Bishop who has the power and mandate to look after the oversight, to make sure each church has appropriate ministry, to encourage and to provide educational opportunities, in our tradition, along with other churches in the Reformed tradition such as the Presbyterians, those same powers are housed not in one person (a Bishop) but rather in the Presbytery.

Ralph serves on the Education and Students committee and I serve on the oversight committee. You'll be hearing more from us soon.

Once again some of our global brothers and sisters are in the news because of a natural disaster. The people **of Chile** are very much in our prayers this week. By coincidence, at Presbytery we had a presentation by a woman who had just returned from Chile after having been on a Habitat for Humanity build there. Thank God that we have people who give regularly and faithfully to our **Mission and Service Fund!** Because of this, we can send help as soon as something like this happens; we don't have to wait for fundraisers to take place or for the news to decide this particular disaster is worth our viewing time. **THANK YOU** for giving to this fund. It is life-saving- quite literally.

The World Day of Prayer service is March 5<sup>th</sup> – we tried to get our junior choir together for this but because of March break this time we'll have to pass. Next time, though!

**A CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK – THE MINISTRY OF WAITING.** This coming week if you find yourself waiting in line, or in traffic, pray for the people in line with you; the clerks and the customers, or the other drivers in traffic.

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. SINCE LAST WEEK I'VE ADDED A BIT MORE AND AM SENDING IT AGAIN. 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**

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 peacemakers, for they will be called children of God".

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

So for this week; "**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven** "

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> SPRING AHEAD DON'T FORGET!

**FROM JOYFUL NOISE: There will be no organized Joyful Noise activities over the spring break... March 7, 14, and 21. If your little ones become restless during the service parents are welcome to take them down stairs. There will be a variety of books, puzzles and crafts in the white cupboard nearest to babyfold.**

**Dessert Theatre:** I AM NOW LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO COULD COMMIT TO DOING THIS FOR PRESBYTERY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>. We are hosting Presbytery, and the theme of the dessert theatre is (sort of) a celebration of the United Church of Canada, and since this year is our 85<sup>th</sup> birthday as a denomination, I am determined to do this dessert theatre and offer it to the presbytery!

Would you be available for practices late August and early September? Who is in?

**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 **Jade Peony by Wayson Choy** and we'll meet to discuss it on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30. The first meeting will be **Wed, March 24th**. At the church, in the upper room. We'll take turns suggesting books, so that we get a broad range of material.

Mondays – **Bible Study**, 5:15 pm at the church in the upper room

Tuesdays – **Bible Study** 7:15 am in the upper room

Tuesday March 2 **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.

I'd like to try **Communion Servers' training** once again – I'm suggesting Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30-NOON in the Sanctuary. Who is interested? There will be a signup sheet for this or contact Bev please.

**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

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) 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.
- 2) 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/)
- 3) 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
- 4) 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
- 5) BANFF MEN'S CONFERENCE – Oct 15-17. Guest Speaker will be retired Brigadier General Peter Holt speaking about the tension between being a serving Christian and a serving soldier; living with integrity in an imperfect world.
- 6) Last week I took part in a local workshop/presentation on compassion fatigue, burnout and vicarious trauma. It was fascinating. The presenter, Francoise Mathieu, pointed us to websites: [compassionfatiguesolutions.blogspot.com](http://compassionfatiguesolutions.blogspot.com)
- 7) [www.compassionfatigue.ca](http://www.compassionfatigue.ca)
- 8) [www.briefcasemoms.com](http://www.briefcasemoms.com)
- 9) <http://www.workoptions.com/>
- 10) In talking about people who work in the helping professions, one of her quotes was: *"The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it, is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water without getting wet."*

## FOR YOUTH

- 1) 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](http://THEGOPROJECT.CA)/[THEGOPROJECT@ISLINGTONUNITED.ORG](mailto: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) United Church chat room and more at [www.wondercafe.ca](http://www.wondercafe.ca). Discussions on a wide range of topics, from a wide range of religious approaches!
- 4) 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.faiethchallenge8.com](http://www.faiethchallenge8.com)

- 5) 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.

**4.5 DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE OF WHITEHORSE UNITED CHURCH ACCORDING TO ITS CONSTITUTION.**

**DUTIES :**

1. inform the congregation regarding the social issues and mission activities of the United Church of Canada nationally and worldwide, and promote the use of related materials :
2. liaise with agencies, groups and congregations serving local community needs, and encourage congregational involvement where appropriate :
3. initiate, organize and promote regular and special appeals within the committee's mandate, in co-operation with the Finance Committee.

<b>Social Justice Committee</b> <i>(Formerly known as the Discipleship Committee)</i>	<b>Beth Roberts (chair)</b>	<b>633 2710</b>
	<b>Stephanie Starks</b>	<b>668 2593</b>
	<b>Vanessa Thorson</b>	<b>456 4877</b>
	<b>Jo Hopkins</b>	<b>668 2559</b>
	<b>Ron Pearson</b>	<b>667-4401</b>
	<b>Barbara Adel</b>	<b>667-7261</b>
	<b>Brenda Dedon</b>	<b>633-3216</b>
	<b>Diane Emond</b>	<b>668-7009</b>
	<b>Margot Neely</b>	<b>456-4000</b>

#### A LETTER FROM GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Friends in Christ,

The 40th General Council adopted a proposal to test the will of the church to expand the Doctrine section of the Basis of Union by adding further statements of faith. For such a significant issue, our polity requires a two-year study process, followed by a remit to presbyteries and pastoral charges.

The study document, titled *Our Words of Faith*, is now available online at [www.united-church.ca/beliefs/statements/our-words-of-faith](http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/statements/our-words-of-faith). A hard copy of the study document will be available to order at no cost by approximately April 15.\* A French version will be available at a later date.

The formal wording of the remit will be approved by the Executive of the General Council.

Although the study document is now available online and may be used at any time, in September 2011 a hard copy and a reminder of the study process will be sent to all pastoral charges and presbyteries.

The formal remit to presbyteries and pastoral charges (Sessions or their equivalent) will be released in January 2012. The deadline for responses will be May 15, 2012. If the remit passes a majority of all presbyteries and pastoral charges, it will come back to the 41st General Council for a final vote.

I wish to express appreciation to the writing team of Michael Bourgeois, Connie denBok, Catherine Faith MacLean, John H. Young, and Bruce Gregersen (staff resource) for offering us this excellent resource in such a short time.

I commend it to you for reflection and study.

Sincerely,

Nora Sanders  
General Secretary, General Council