

ALLELUIA CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! I pray that you experience the new life that is God's gift to us always, and especially at this time.

Here at WUC the services were such a blessing: at least to me, and others have been kind in their feedback as well. Maundy Thursday we gathered for a wonderful meal (thank you Joy and others who helped) and a Seder service. Friday's service helped us enter the humanity of Jesus' disciples as they sat at the last supper with him. Thank you so much to the men who participated. Sunday was simply wonderful. The music included the senior choir singing "And the Glory of the Lord" by Handel, as well as a solo by Derek, a duet by Derek and Hank, and the Junior choir singing "Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks to the Risen Christ" and of course, Barry's postlude was a perfect way to leave the service. THANK YOU TO ALL THE ANGELS who made the services and the weekend a blessing to so many.

I'm including as an attachment, a Bible Study document; it's the four resurrection narratives with some notes. Bible study will continue Tuesday mornings at 7:15 am.

I've included an Easter message to you from our Moderator, Mardi Tyndal. You can find it in this newsletter, or by using the links she provides in her message.

For people who are preparing reports for the AGM – please note that the meeting will include table group discussions. I am asking each committee to prepare its report in this way: Please give the congregation your sense of how your committee serves God and how it fits into the mission statement of our church. Give us an idea of the kinds of spiritual gifts that people considering becoming involved in the work of your committee might need, and finally, give us one or two questions concerning the future of your committee's work to consider at the meeting.

COMING UP

Tuesday April 6th – Worship Committee, 5:15 pm
Tuesday April 13th 5:15 M&P
7:15 Council

Dessert Theatre: After church on April 11th all participants please plan to stay for a couple of hours and we'll have our first complete read through. Bring a bag lunch. If you haven't signed up for it but want in, that's ok, come along we can use everyone. **OUR PLAN IS TO PREPARE IT FOR PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 11TH AND 18TH.**

Book club. Anyone is most welcome to join us, or simply to read along with us whether or not you attend meetings. This month's book is **Good to a Fault** and we'll meet to discuss it on **the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Wed, April 28th.** At the church, in the upper room.

TWO TOONIE LUNCH – April 18th. Contact person is Ashley Renwick. (633 5832) Proceeds to the Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre. Please consider helping out and/or attending, and spread the word.

After Easter, we will keep on with the **early morning Bible Studies**. I’m open to changing the day from Tuesday if that’s better, but for now we’ll stay with Tuesdays at 7:15. We’ll also keep going with the Wednesday noon hour services of silence and readings. The Monday 5:15 Bible Study, however, will be discontinued.

At some point I would like to offer **confirmation classes**. This might also include baptism preparation (for adults or young people), people who are thinking of transferring membership from another denomination or simply people who would like a chance to talk about faith. I have no idea if there is interest, and if there is, when would be a good time. Please talk to me about this. I would anticipate a six week series.

GRADUATION: Who from our church family will be graduating from high school or college this year? We’d very much like to acknowledge them, but first we have to know who they are. Please let us know if you are aware of graduates. Thanks!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER – by the Men’s Breakfast group as a fundraiser for Braeburn Camp. April 9th from 5-7 at the CY O hall (at the Roman Catholic church) – We are asked to provide salads and desserts – there is a sign-up sheet in the usual place in the narthex

Movie Group – Last time we watched *One Week*, (fabulous film!) and will meet again **Thursday evening, April 15th** at the home of Karen Walker and Wayne Tuck at 42 Bell Crescent. 7 pm. Karen will surprise us with a choice of film. You won’t be disappointed.

April 18th after church a **two toonie lunch** – proceeds toward the **Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre**. Spearheaded by Ashley Renwick. Please support this if you are able. 633 5832.

Food Drive: Drop Off Week April 19th. Pick up week April 26th. We need volunteers for this important ecumenical initiative. Approximate time commitment one hour each of those weeks. Call Beth for more details at 633 2710

June 12 – The plan is to have a **“Spring Soul Cleaning” retreat day** at the church. A day of fun, collage making, conversation, inspiration and laughter. Lunch provided. PLEASE SAVE OLD MAGAZINES FOR US when you’re doing your spring cleaning.

LIST OF GREETERS APRIL-JUNE 2010

April 11 – Gail Chester/Faye and Jack Cable

April 18 – Farr Furlong family (there is a 2 toonie lunch after church this day)

May 2 – Fred and Mary Lou Smith

May 9 – (run for Mom – come in your running gear or wear pink that day – I PROMISE to let you out in time to run!)

May 16 – Faye and Jack Cable

May 23 (long weekend and PENTECOST) – Joy Wickett
May 30 – Fred and Mary Lou Smith – AGM Sunday
June 6 – Church picnic – Dawn Dimond and Gail Chester
June 13 – Farr Furlong family
June 20 – Vanessa Thorson/Beth Roberts
June 27 Takhini Acres Troop

GET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES GOING – We’ll be hosting Presbytery in September. Among the things to think about (including billets, food and so on) – please think about how we’ll welcome them and how to use the gold rush as a theme for our weekend with them. “Gold” has been suggested by someone and I really like that idea: God’s love more precious than gold, the gold brought to Jesus at his birth, each of us as a priceless nugget, the Gospel as a pearl of great price.what comes to mind? Banners? Songs? If you have thoughts please talk to me or to the worship committee. Thanks – it’s so much fun to develop a theme together.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STRUCTURAL LIFE HERE AT WUC
I’m quoting from the WUC Constitution as it presently stands.

4.10 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(This Committee assumes the remaining duties of the Stewardship Committee as defined in the Manual not covered under Section 4.6.)

Goal: To manage the church’s physical resources to effectively fulfill the mission of the church.

All decisions affecting the real property of the church are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees. A representative of the Board of Trustees shall be a member of this Committee.

The minister or minister's spouse is an ex-officio member of this committee, should the church be providing a manse for the minister's use.

The custodian (if volunteer or staff) is a corresponding member of this committee.

DUTIES :

1. co-ordinate the maintenance, renovations and improvements of the land, buildings and contents of all church properties :
2. consult with congregation on the preparation and maintenance of a long-range plan of major renovations, improvements, and replacement projects :
3. co-ordinate the use of church facilities by congregational groups and outside organizations :
4. oversee janitorial duties in church properties :
5. maintain the sound system :
6. coordinate the sextons and greeters.

Property Management

Fred Smith (Chair)

667 2871

Committee	Lee Pigage	633 4742
	John Maissan	668 7469
	Doug MacLean	668 7469
	Harris Cox	668 2827
	Hank Moorlag	633 3881
	Rock Brisson	633 3911
	Sheila Stockton	667 7067

Notices from Sean Murphy, Anglican Parish of Whitehorse

1. Suicide Intervention Workshop, Saturday, April 10, 2010, 9 am to 4 pm at Hellaby Hall, Christ Church Cathedral. Led by The Rev. Dr. Lee Titterington, Incumbent of St. Pauls' Anglican Church, Dawson City and Director of the Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries. This Workshop is aimed at people who might be approached by someone with suicide ideas, people who are dealing with the suicide of a family member, or people who might provide assistance to persons grieving a suicide. The Workshop combines biblical teachings with the latest research in the area of suicide. Contact 668-5530.

Refreshments served. Participants on their own for lunch.

2. Installation Service for Archdeacon Sean Murphy as Rector of the Anglican Parish of Whitehorse, Sunday, April 18, 2010, 4 pm at Christ Church Cathedral. Pot Luck Supper to follow. All welcome. Contact 668-5530.

3. Braeburn Lake Christian Summer Camp Spaghetti Dinner - 5 - 7 pm Friday, April 9, 2010, at CYO Hall, Sacred Heart Cathedral. Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00, Children under 12 \$8.00 and Children under 4 no charge. Proceeds go to support Braeburn Camp.

4. Anglican Diocese of Yukon Women's Conference, Christ Church Cathedral, April 23-25, 2010. Theme: "Women in Ministry." Speaker The Rt. Rev. Terrence Buckle, Bishop of Yukon. All welcome. Phone 668-5530.

5. Gospel Bluegrass Concert at Christ Church Cathedral, Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact 668-5530.

Note: See also the Moderator's Easter video message at <http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/moderator/100329b> or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you follow a particular spiritual practice during Holy Week? For me, reading and praying the final chapters of the Gospel of John helps me take the risk of yet again opening my heart to the deep pain and deep peace held within our sacred story.

John's account of his life with Jesus wasn't recorded, as far as we know, for many years following Jesus' death-likely around 85-90 AD. It was decades after that horrific murder of his friend before John could record the words he had heard Jesus say: "Do not let your hearts be troubled"

(Jn. 14:1), decades of absorbing and interpreting the events and meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Generations later we do the same today-listening to the story, trying to make sense of it for ourselves and our times. No story holds more power or meaning for us.

It was when Jesus' friends gathered following his death that Christ appeared to them, bringing peace, reassurance, direction, and challenge-God's love made known, the living Christ made known. Like those first friends, we gather as friends of Jesus following his devastating death to discover new life and direction in the saving, healing power of Christ. We become an Easter people in God's love.

Our hearts are wrenched open by other deaths, too. Troubling stories of suffering and death in Haiti, for instance, have been with us for many years, but the earthquake of January 12 has focused our attention on the staggering new need for immediate relief and long-term restoration. It will take decades to work through this horrific tragedy: to respond with compassion, to learn about the conditions that make the people of Haiti so vulnerable in the face of such disaster, and to learn how God's love is known yet again even following so much death and destruction.

Friends and relatives ask me how I can believe in God at a time like this. Times like these, I say, have always shaped our understanding of God's love.

We gather as friends of Jesus in the midst of death and respond in the love of Christ. We respond as Easter people in the midst of death and tragedy.

After horrific death it can take a long time before we can really hear "Do not let your hearts be troubled"-but less time when we accompany one another. We are not alone.

Toronto Star reporter Catherine Porter returned recently from writing about life and death on the streets of Port-au-Prince. She joined the Rev. Doug Norris in a dialogue sermon at Rosedale United Church (Toronto), and her account of the enormous strength of spirit and countless acts of hope she found among Haitians is one of the most inspiring presentations I've heard in a long time. She describes how tens of thousands of people gather in makeshift refugee camps for nightly worship, and how makeshift "street signs" have popped up along the paths between tents. One sign is titled Rue de l'amour. (You can hear the whole conversation at <http://rosedaleunited.org/sermon-archives/february-2010/february-28-2010/>).

John too keeps returning to God's love as his main theme. He remembers Jesus' prayers, such as "I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (Jn. 17:26).

That love is in us still. I have been asked to lead, next week, a United Church delegation to gather with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Following death, and in its midst, we will gather as members of one family around the presence of Jesus, opening ourselves to his peace, assurance, direction, and love. We will gather as a community of love. Our partners are so traumatized by these devastating events that communication remains extremely difficult and limited. Being with them is the best way to truly see and hear what we need to understand of their immediate and long-term needs. We will learn more about the love and challenge of Christ, together.

I am honoured to represent you in this pastoral visit. As members of The United Church of Canada we have already contributed over \$2.7 million for relief and restoration efforts. Our partners in Haiti are eager to welcome us. I look forward to sharing with you what they say about how we can be with them through this most difficult time. And I will bring them assurance of our continued commitment to stand with them as they rebuild their lives.

Please know that I continue to hold you in prayer daily. I commend John's testimony to you and extend Holy Week greetings and blessings to you in the name of our friend and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Easter blessings,

Mardi Tindal
Moderator
The United Church of Canada

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TO: Conference Offices (Saskatchewan to All Native Circle)
Pastoral Charges (with e-mail) in those respective Conferences (by blind carbon-copy)

Moderator Travels to Haiti for Easter Season Pastoral Visit

Toronto: On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, Mardi Tindal, will travel to Haiti leading a five-person United Church delegation on what is described as a pastoral visit.

"After horrific death it can take a very long time before we can really hear Jesus' words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled"-but it takes less time when we accompany one another," says Tindal.

She explains that the United Church's partners in Haiti are engaged in relief and reconstruction despite the trauma of losing family members, homes, and offices. "They have asked us to accompany them-pastorally and personally-and so, like good neighbours in time of crisis, we are going to be with them," she says.

The United Church's partners in Haiti are the Methodist Church of Haiti and the Karl Lévêque Cultural Institute (ICKL). The United Church also

works through the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy. According to the United Nations, more than 222,517 people were killed and 300,000 injured in the earthquake. More than one million people are living in makeshift settlements. The situation is staggering, devastating, and unprecedented.

"Under the circumstances, it is impossible to have satisfactory conversations from a distance. Communication remains extremely difficult and limited," comments Tindal. "Being with our partners is the best way to truly see and hear what we need to understand of their immediate and long-term needs. We will learn more about the love and challenge of Christ, together."

Jim Hodgson is the United Church's regional program coordinator for partnerships in the Caribbean, Central America, and Colombia. He is in Haiti now preparing for the delegation's arrival and working with partners and the ACT Alliance.

Hodgson says that it will take years to work through this horrific tragedy, to respond with compassion, and to learn about the conditions that make the people of Haiti so vulnerable in the face of such disaster.

"Troubling stories of suffering and death in Haiti have been with us for many years, but the earthquake of January 12 has focused our attention on the staggering new need for immediate relief and long-term restoration," says Hodgson. "Haitians will need our ongoing help for a long time."

Since the devastating earthquake on January 12, United Church members have contributed over \$2.7 million for relief and restoration efforts.

Hodgson explains that the cost of the delegation's visit to Haiti is covered from existing budgets made possible through regular donations to the church's Mission and Service Fund. None of the monies given to the United Church's Haiti Appeal are being used to finance the trip.

Tindal wrote in an Easter message to United Church congregations that she was honoured to represent them in this pastoral visit. She adds as she prepares to leave for Haiti, "I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our church in this way. When I return I look forward to sharing what the people I meet in Haiti say about how we can be with them through this most difficult time. And I will bring them assurance of our continued commitment to stand with them as they rebuild their lives."

The following are the other three members of the United Church Haiti delegation:

* the Rev. Pierre Goldberger, responsible for French ministries of the United Church, brings extensive experience with the Haitian community in Montreal and beyond. With Jim Hodgson, Pierre has French-language skills and contextual knowledge of Haiti and partnerships there.

* Justine Kiwanuka, an elected member of the United Church's Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit, brings expertise in human rights issues, particularly for people with disabilities. She works in immigration settlement in Winnipeg and has done work with the United Nations.

* the Rev. Bill Steadman serves the General Council Office as Executive Minister of the Financial Stewardship Unit. His responsibilities include interpreting the need for and the use of donations given for relief and rebuilding in Haiti.

The delegation's visit to Haiti will continue until April 13, although the Moderator will be returning to Canada on April 10.

For more information, please contact:

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