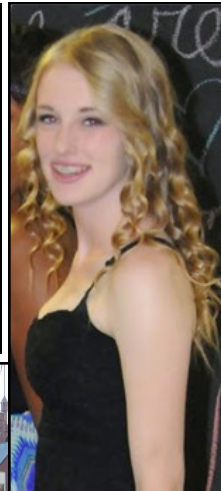


# WHAT'S UP...IN THE CWM

Fall 2015



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Spec 2015 was such a great and inspiring experience. There is honestly nowhere else in this world you can go where everyone is so friendly and cheerful at every time of the day. For me, Spectacular was about getting closer to people you've met over the years and of course meeting so many new friends! It was amazing to meet so many people from all around the world. The sports are always fun and crazy. My favourite part of SPEC is always the volleyball. It's unique to experience this much fun while sportsmanship and fairness are always first and foremost. The food is amazing even though we eat the same food for a week, you still miss it when you leave. We left our



phones in our rooms most of the time with everything going on like sports and classes and so many activities and rarely missed them. I personally loved taking pottery both years that I have been to SPEC. With facebook and social media you can keep in touch with the people you've met easier than ever before. It was a great year again, and I can't wait for my last year at SPEC 2016! You should come too.

Rena Christensen

## Mission Prayer

God, where will your spirit lead today?  
 Help me to be fully awake and ready to respond.  
 Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace.

## MISSION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: CONTINUING REVELATION

The picture to the right is one of my favourite images from the 2013 Community of Christ World Conference. Susan Oxley, an American Apostle, is assisting Bunda Chibwe, our church's first African Apostle, who is ordaining, speaking in French, our first Tahitian Apostle, Mareva Arnaud Tchong. This image was made possible through a long heritage in our church of the enduring principle of continuing revelation. First, the church's acceptance of section 156 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants provided revelatory instruction that called for women to serve in priesthood. This eventually resulted in Susan's and Mareva's presence here.



Second, the recognition of the call of God for the church to "go into all the world" resulted in missionary efforts in Tahiti in the very early years of the church's history in the mid-1800s; and then responding to the call to truly

become a "world church" in the 1960s and 1970s took us into Africa and other areas. Each of these efforts brought Bunda and Mareva to this point in their lives and ministries. The representation of our beloved church seal within a globe adds further to the world-wide revelatory nature of this moment.

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### ***Enduring Principle: Continuing Revelation***

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- *Scripture is an inspired and indispensable witness of human response to God's revelation of divine nature*
- *God graciously reveals divine will today as in the past.*
- *The Holy Spirit inspires and provides witness to divine truth.*
- *In humility, individually and in community, we prayerfully listen to understand God's will for our lives, the church, and creation more completely.*

---

From "Sharing in Community of Christ," 3rd Ed., pg.12

God is calling us to serve in our communities." In a recent course we were challenged by a significant variation on this effort: we may also need to discern "where God is already at work in our communities" and effectively catch up to God's revelation by joining in and supporting God's existing effort through others that is bringing to bear the mission of Jesus Christ on the lives of people around us.

May we be blessed in Canada West as we seek continuing revelatory guidance in our work on Christ's behalf.

Our "enduring principle" of "continuing revelation" is defined with the four statements in the box to the left. It is a principle that truly infuses many elements of our faith tradition. It is invoked in calls to priesthood – at the local level as well as for those called to serve in the leading quorums of the church as illustrated above. Congregations seek God's direction for their mission in their communities through a process of "discernment" or sometimes a "congregational blessing" – essentially seeking revelatory guidance. We as individual disciples through our prayers for guidance are looking for an element of God's revelation in our personal lives.

We are often challenged to discern a revelation of "where

Steve Thompson,

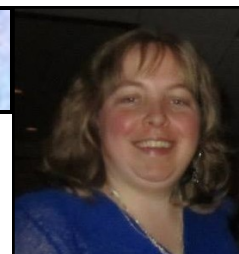
Mission Centre President and Financial Officer





# GET GOD

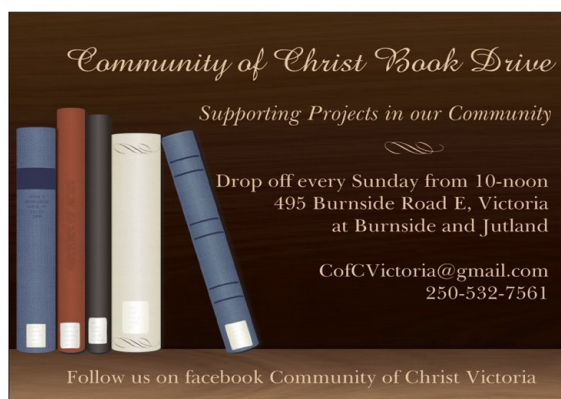
# KELLY DUFF



In June I began the "Get God" program. From the beginning I have been both excited and nervous about this program. Excited because what a wonderful opportunity to work with Stephen Thompson and Debra Donohue to find ways to promote our church in our community. Nervous because although I believe "Invite people to Christ" is as important a mission initiative as any other, I have to confess I'm not very good at it. Talking about church to people used to fill me with a kind of dread that only those who have had the unfortunate task of selling chocolate bars door-to-door for school will truly be able to understand. I've gotten better at it in more recent years, but I view this program as an opportunity to really expand my knowledge and experience with respect to this initiative. Through the program, I have started a faith based online blog, organized a book drive and made plans for future projects, which I hope to start in the new year.

The blog project was started in an effort to give a kind of insider view of what it's like to go to church, and to be a person of faith. Many people that I know, whether they are friends, co-workers or even family members, view church as something that's just not for them or something that they don't have time for. Some have never been to church, well others say it's something they used to do when they were kids. It seems like

faith has been put on the back burner instead of being a focus point in our lives. The purpose of my blog is to invite people to explore their faith by openly sharing my own experiences and thoughts. I discuss service planning, speaking, what it's like going to church and general topics of faith. The blog is called Epiphany of Jade, [epiphanyofjade.blogspot.ca](http://epiphanyofjade.blogspot.ca). I chose to use one of my middle names simply out of habit, but epiphany because as I travel on my own spiritual journey, through prayer, scripture study and self-reflection, those rare moments of spiritual clarity feel like epiphanies.



The other project I've begun through this program is a book drive to raise funds for improvements to the church and in support of a local community centre. I got the idea for the book drive from another church. Victoria is a city full of avid readers, so it seemed like a great idea. My

hope with this project is to raise funds, but also remind the community that we are here and maybe make some lasting connections within the community. So far we have only just begun to collect books, but it is my hope to have enough books to have a big book sale in early December. If you live in the Victoria area and would like to contribute to our book drive, please contact me by email at [cofcvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:cofcvictoria@gmail.com) or drop by the church any Sunday from 10-12.

Looking forward, I hope to find other opportunities to support the community and invite people to get to know us. In the new year, I would like to get more involved with the community centre, and possibly start a monthly movie night to coincide with the free dinner nights that they do.

With the guidance and encouragement of Stephen Thompson and Debra Donohue I am learning to explore different ways to invite people to Christ. We are only a few months into the program, and have only scratched the surface on what I hope to achieve during this year. I'm looking forward to the next few months, and am optimistic about the success of these projects.



## VICTORIA

**Joe Bouley from the Victoria Congregation helped raised money for Cops for Cancer.**

**He offers his hair for donations each year.**

**Go Joe!**



# BAPTISMS IN MEADOW RIDGE

**Lisa Wingfield**

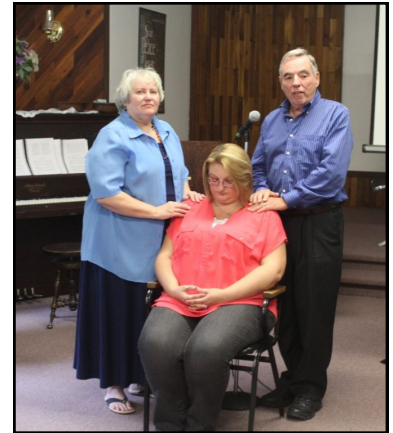
On Saturday September 19, 2015 the Meadow Ridge congregation headed out to Chilliwack to borrow their baptismal font. We witnessed two baptisms. One was my own and the other was my dear friend Bill Morrison. Ed Salahub presided over a beautiful, loving baptism service. I had the privilege of being baptised by Darrell Belrose and Ed Salahub baptised Bill. Many loving thoughts, warm wishes, and welcomes were offered from not only our congregation but from members of



Chilliwack, who left the class they were in to join us. I had the special privilege of having my younger sister Caitlyn attend and be a part of this special day with me.

The next day at church both myself and Bill had our confirmations. I was confirmed by Darrell Belrose and Audrey Salahub and Bill was confirmed by Darrell Belrose and Ed Salahub. The warm feelings flowing through me during the confirmation are

indecipherable. I've only been a part of Community of Christ for the last six and a half years but it feels like I've always been here. It started with a simple invitation to come to church and turned into more than I could've ever imagined! For that I will always be thankful.



**Bill Morrison**

I have been attending Community Of Christ in Meadow Ridge since 2006. I started by going to the Christmas Eve service each year where I met different people each year. I now attend church regularly, and during the past 9 years I have attended 5 Mission Conferences and 1 camp at Hills Of Peace. Over the years, a few people have spoken to me about baptism and encouraged me to take this special step in life, but I wasn't ready. There was a lot of kidding in the congregation about how they were going to get me baptised. I was afraid of receiving a drive-by Baptism by some

sneaky culprit, but that never happened. In the summer of 2015 I attended the family reunion at Hills Of



Peace and I was blown away by this awesome, caring group. It kick-started some inner thinking and I decided to get baptised, on Sept. 19, 2015. The

congregation I belong to has really helped me along this journey and they continue to encourage me to explore new possibilities and take on different responsibilities at church.



## Baptism of Love

Freedom from sin  
Power to serve  
Receiving God's grace  
Not what we deserve  
**This is truly a baptism of love**

Washed white as snow  
Rescued from strife  
Covered in virtue  
Raised to new life  
**This is truly a baptism of love**

Love fills the heart  
As Christ fills the soul  
Blessed  
Redeemed  
Reborn  
Made Whole  
A citizen now  
Of the kingdom to come  
Believers in all time and space  
Are made one  
**This is truly a baptism of love.**



Written by  
Ed Salahub  
September 19, 2015  
Meadow Ridge



# HELPING WITH THE SYRIAN CRISIS

We have been bombarded with images of desperation as waves of refugees have boarded rickety boats or endured parched and hostile journeys. This crisis has reached a threshold in our world, resulting in a call for extraordinary action, just like the “Vietnamese Boat People” of the 1980s.

With that call comes an extraordinary opportunity. The Canadian Peace / Justice Committee is preparing a resource to assist congregations decide how best to respond, including sponsorship, as well as some areas of concern.

In the interim, here is a quick sketch of possible responses for groups like congregations:

**A time for repentance.** We have been given enough and to spare. All are created in God’s image. Yet today’s conditions, while globally improving, are marred by so many pockets of horrible, unnecessary suffering. I start here, not to evoke any guilt, but to step back, attempt to ground myself better in what life is really about, and thus hopefully being open to new possibilities.

**Support credible humanitarian help.** One aspect of the deluge has been the under-funding of the normal crisis agencies. For example, the World Food Programme had to cut its funding to Syrian refugee camps by 50%. Such underfunding forces people who were desperate enough to go to refugee camps, to consider leaving them, thereby adding to the exodus to Europe. Support can take two forms:

- Donate to the reputable charitable aid agencies;
- Press Canada to increase its funding to the UN aid agencies;

**Support agencies in Canada** that provide resources that help refugees adjust to life in Canada (S.U.C.C.E.S.S., etc.);

**Sponsor one or more families with another group**, such as a United Church, Anglican Church, via the Mennonite Central Committee, etc.;

**Fully sponsor a family.** The steps for this will be coming soon, or you can contact existing sponsoring agencies such as in point (4). The very basics involve:

At least \$30,000 for the one year commitment to fully support their needs (Note: Canada West Mission has indicated it will make some funding available);

Enough volunteer time to help them get established (housing, schooling, medical, language, jobs, etc.). Some people will have extra needs due to trauma, low literacy rates, etc. (which must be factored in, but which is also a doubly wonderful gift to give them if it is viable). One needs to be clear-eyed about this year-long commitment;

**Advocate an end to the civil war** via all political and diplomatic means, so that the exodus will be stopped and the people will be able to return home;

The above barely touches all the factors in this complex disaster. But “complex” does not need to mean “immobilized”! While no one can heed DC 163:4a in every instance, we can consider which of the above steps we might take:

4 a. God, the Eternal Creator, weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their

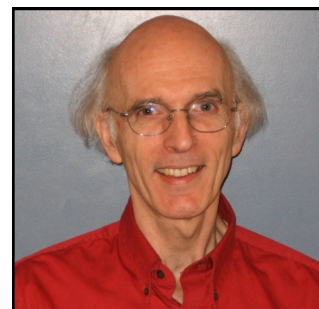
unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare.

Stay tuned for the full resource, or contact Rod

[rdowning94@shaw.ca](mailto:rdowning94@shaw.ca)

604-535-6550.

Peace and Justice Minister



## 2016 Camping and Retreats

- Feb12-15 Winter Youth Camp (location to be confirmed)
- February 27 Samish Island Kitchen and Cabin Work Day
- March 4-6 Nurturing Spirit Weekend Samish Island
- Mar 18-20 Encounter World Religions Program Greater Vancouver
- April 15-17 Pastors Retreat (location to be confirmed)
- April 21-24 Fine Arts Retreat Samish Island
- April 25-30 Samish Island Work Week
- May 27-29 Young Adult Retreat Hills of Peace (to be confirmed)
- June 3-5 Camp Genesis (8-9 yrs) Samish Island
- June 4-11 World Conference - Independence Missouri
- June 13 Samish Island Work Day
- Jun 25-Jul 1 Adult Reunion Samish Island
- July 3-8 CWM Youth Camp Hills of Peace
- July 9 -14 Family Reunion Hills of Peace
- July 15 -18 Junior Camp (8-12 yrs) Hills of Peace
- July 16-23 Family Reunion Samish Island
- July 16-23 Spectacular Graceland University *tentative dates*
- July 24-30 Camp Kluane (girls 12-14 yrs) Samish Island
- Jul 31-Aug 6 Camp Chimacum (boys 12-14 yrs) Samish Island
- August 7-13 Camp Kimtah (15-18 yrs) Samish Island
- August 6-7 Nurturing Spirit Retreat Hills of Peace
- Aug14-20 Camp Mungai (10-11 yrs) Samish Island
- Sept 2-4 Canada West Mission Conference – Ribstone AB
- Sept 23-25 Men's Retreat Hills of Peace
- Sept 30–Oct 2 Women's Retreat Chilliwack
- Oct 28-30 Singles Retreat Samish Island

*Note: Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat cancelled for 2015 due to World Conference  
Dates are subject to change, please register early*

## SASKATOON



This was part of the fabulous thanksgiving display that Brenda Senga put together. We give thanks for all the wonderful people who give time and share talent in our Church family.

Lloyd Chase



Left Ribstone Prariewinds  
Below Wainwright Warblers





# RIBSTONE

Ribstone is a bustling congregation, nestled amid a forest of poplars. However, during the summer months, we have a lot less going on in our little part of the world.



On the last Sunday of May, Aubrie Selte was baptized and confirmed. Tilly and Tumbleweed made an appearance (as is tradition now on baptism Sundays). Aubrie involved a lot of her family and Sunday School friends in her special service. Her extended family hosted a lunch following the worship.



In June, we held our traditional church picnic and congregational games after the worship service. It marks the beginning of our Sunday School-less summers. Anita Bates was in charge of the Father's Day service. Each year on Mother's Day and Father's Day, gifts are given to the parents of the congregation. Anita organized it so that the church gave a lovely keychain to each of the fathers/ men of the congregation during the service that day.



July's big event was Vacation Bible School (VBS). For a number of years now, Tarla Olson has been the principal of the week's events. She has now retired from that position. We are grateful for her many hours of planning and preparation for the hit of the summer. Thirty-one kids attended VBS this year.



August was a fairly quiet month in Ribstone, with the exception of the one evening service of the summer-- "Just Desserts." The service was about how we can build Ebenezers in our lives. Following the worship, the



congregation enjoyed a dessert potluck.

September brought back the hustle and bustle in Ribstone. JAM started things off on the second Friday in September.

On September 13, we gathered for back-to-Sunday-School Sunday, complete



with our 9th annual truck pull, collecting Loonies for Literacy, a "Count Me In" worship service which included a lot of people's talents and a potluck that followed the worship service. Also beginning that day were baptism classes, taught by Pastor Darleene. There are 12 attending this session of on-going classes. Women's Department met mid-September.

Young Families group had a wonderful meeting at the near-by corn maze with 65 people in attendance. We collected for Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes for



two Sundays in September. E.S.T. (Eager Saints Troop) met for their first meeting of the 2015/16 school year. This year's theme is "The Parables of Jesus." The September meeting focused on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.



September was rounded out with a wonderful sacrament service of Baby Blessing for Paige McCrea.

Leila Goheen





# WHY FUNDRAISERS WORK WELL AS OUTREACH PROJECTS

When someone mentions outreach at church, why is it that people start looking busy, avoiding eye contact and suddenly have somewhere else to be?

It can be hard for some of us to talk about our church, even if we've attended every Sunday since we were born. The media makes accusations of religion being the cause of all wars, they poke fun at those of us who believe in God and Jesus, and most of our friends and co-workers simply aren't raised in a home where church is a part of life anymore. Our friends may consider themselves to be 'spiritual' but they just don't get the God thing. I admit the cards are stacked against us when it comes to sharing how great our church is, and ultimately inviting people to Christ. It's just plain uncomfortable to talk about.

But, when you plan a fundraiser – guess what? You won't have to open the conversation with talk about God, Jesus, The Mission Initiatives or the Mormon's. Fundraising events can be the easiest way to encourage conversation about our church, because as people get to know you better and see what you stand up for, they will inevitably start asking about your church and your beliefs. They'll see what you and your congregation are all about on a personal level and they'll appreciate that you care about your community. You'll end up build-

ing relationships based on shared concerns for your community, and even if these new friends never come out to church, ever, you can bet when one of their friends is wondering what church they should check out, your new friend will recommend Community of Christ.

For a fundraiser to be successful as an

is paramount all around.

Here's how to get started. Find out what charity, project, or family in need your congregation is passionate about. If they aren't passionate about the charity and can't stand up and tell you why, then they won't be there for all the preparations and planning of your fundraiser.

*"You won't have to open the conversation with talk about God, Jesus, The Mission Initiatives or the Mormon's."*

Step 1 - I recommend preparing a 'Pitch Sheet' to be filled out by your members who have charities in mind to support. You'll want information such as how much funds you will need to raise, how will the funds be used, who distributes the funds, is this time sensitive, how long will this support go on for (one time, one year, five years) and allow room for additional comments.

Step 2 - If you receive a lot of proposals, have a committee narrow them down to 3 or 4 that will be presented to your congregation.

Step 3 - Have the selected proposals 'pitched' by the people who submitted them. Be sure to allow time for questions so everyone has a really good understanding of that charity and it's needs.

Step 4 - Have the congregation vote on the projects and select one.

Step 5 - Plan a fundraiser or fundraising program to support this project. What are your congregations strengths? Can you put an event on yourselves? Does someone know a local band? Could this be a bake sale, dinner, or Zumba marathon? What outside groups rent your building? They may be the perfect fundraising partner. The event ideas are endless, and really that's a whole new article, however, I just happen to know a gal with a lot of ideas who loves to plan events, so feel free to call me if you need help brainstorming. # Invite People to Christ #plan well # give generously of your time.

Debra Donohue  
Congregational Outreach  
Specialist

debra@communityofchrist.ca  
1-877-411-2632 extension 4



There comes a time in most of our lives when we find ourselves saying "I want to do more". That's what Volontouring Abroad, Volunteering at Home is all about. We'll show you great travel opportunities where you can actually help build a school or a home for someone in need in a foreign country. Or if you'd like to find out more ways to help in your own community, we'll show you those too.

**Swag, Snacks, Guest Speakers**  
November 14

Join us for an informative afternoon on how to Volontour Abroad, and where to Volunteer at Home, right here in Chilliwack.  
Saturday November 14th from 1-4pm at Community of Christ church.  
9845 Carleton Street N, Chilliwack  
604-792-7811 chilliwackcommunityofchrist@gmail.com

1:00 Doors open, Refreshments, Swag Bags for the first 50 people  
1:30 Guest Presentations  
3:00 Snacks, Refreshments, Tradeshow  
4:00 Raffle Draw – Coast Chilliwack Hotel, Sears Travel Gift

World Accord, Cyrus Centre, COAST chilliwack hotel, Sears travel, Community of Christ

outreach project we really need to be supporting two projects, one a local charity, and the other a church charity. The reason we need both is that it opens the door to talking about church and our church initiatives in an easy, non threatening way. We're able to talk about a particular church charity comfortably because it's part of the fundraiser.

Oftentimes, it's not so much the funds raised that make a difference for the charity, but the awareness that you create. This is true for both the local charity and the church affiliated charity. You're introducing two groups who likely have no idea about each other, be it World Accord or the Samish Island Campground Fund. As we educate ourselves and our communities, the value

Community of Christ  
PRESENTS...  
**VICTORIA GAELIC CHOIR  
CHARITY CONCERT AND  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

VICTORIA GAELIC CHOIR CONCERT  
HIGHLAND DANCING  
HIGH TEA  
GAELIC PRONUNCIATION CONTEST

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
HOMEMADE TREASURES  
YUMMY BAKED GOODS  
GENTLY USED BOOKS

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST**

2:00 Doors Open, Christmas Bazaar Sole  
2:30 Victoria Gaelic Choir Performance  
3:15 Gaelic Pronunciation Contest  
3:30 Bon Accord Highland Dancers  
3:50 High Tea and Christmas Bazaar

Join us on Saturday, November 21st at 2pm for an afternoon of Gaelic music brought to you by the Victoria Gaelic Choir, Highland Dancing from Bon Accord Dancers, Christmas Bazaar, and High Tea.

We are your community church in downtown Victoria on Burnside, and we love to support our neighbors. Proceeds will go to the Burnside Gorge Community Association and World Accord, a highly successful international development charity. The Victoria Gaelic Choir uses our facility to rehearse and we have been supporters of the Burnside Gorge Community Association for the past 25 years.

Community of Christ  
495 BURNSIDE ROAD E, VICTORIA V8T-2X3  
CALL 250-388-4712 ADMISSION BY DONATION



# MEN'S RETREAT

# HILLS OF PEACE

DAN ESCH

There are two ways you could try to explain men's retreat. You could try to define it mathematically – use numbers to prove that it was successful: 26 men, two 10-time attendees, two first-timers, 4 sessions, 4 meals, 4 snacks, 3 questions, 2 great cooks, 1 campfire with only 1 toilet skit, 1 smoky communion service, 0 days lost to injury taking the dock out of the water and putting away the tent. But it would be just as

Our guest minister, Scott Giles, was imported from California and challenged us to pursue the life that was waiting for us. During the 4 sessions we shared as a large body and in small groups. We have had ten retreats so far and it was the consensus that this was the first one that we talked about what it meant to be men. Saturday was repetitive –



sit in the chapel, sit in the dining hall (both were very filling). Mike Bock started off the sequence Saturday morning with an engaging worship before breakfast. Scott was very flexible about the sessions, but held the meal start-times as sacred. After 4 sessions we wrapped up Saturday with a Doug MacArthur/Kirk Boote led (which means they are liable for everything that transpired) campfire followed by cards,

hanging out, and more eating. Sunday morning Dan Woynarski was in charge of the communion service which was a bit late in starting since we had to fog the chapel for mosquitoes and after we shared in

accurate to measure the weekend qualitatively: the most vivid story about a rat, the surprise at who you saw when we "crossed the line", the power of laughter and sharing, and - of course - the biggest pieces of pie.



communion it was time to hit the road.

Not that anybody is going to remember the date a year in the future, but next year we will be getting together on September 23-25. And for the first time ever we actually know in advance who the guest minister is, thanks to an invitation from Dan Woynarski. We're importing Adam Wade from Australia. So who knows, maybe everything will be turned upside-down, but I doubt it. It isn't about the schedule or the events, it's about hanging out with a group of guys who are somewhere in their teens to 80's and sharing equal parts laughs and spirituality.

'Off with the Rat's head'

# WOMEN'S RETREAT

# CHILLIWACK

DEBRA DONOHUE

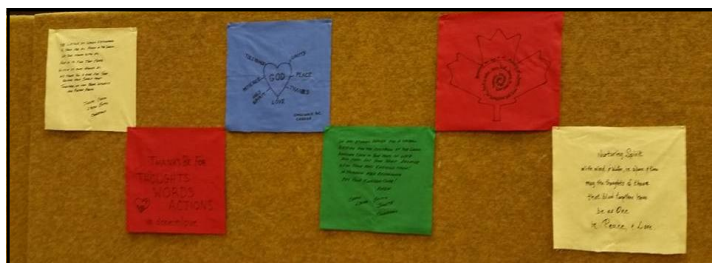
The Women's Retreat took place in Chilliwack on the first weekend of October. Our theme was Come Together, Care together and visited the theme of taking care of ourselves and others.

Friday night began with visiting and a guided meditation, time to just say ah.

On Saturday we worked from Corinne Ware's book 'Discover Your Spiritual Type', which was a great opportunity to see how we naturally best serve our community, based on that spiritual type. We discovered we are all needed to have a well balanced community. After that we made prayer flags to send to World Conference, we explored Chilliwack in small groups, and had a lovely Ladies Tea (we brought our hats!). Later in the day we made wonderful homemade cards to give away. Betty Williams had more card accessories for us to experiment with than you can imagine. After supper we were entertained by 'Dos Cerveca', a duet of Bonnie Levitt and Alexis Beer, followed by the amazing Edith Wallace who shared stories and song. We finished the day with a guided meditation and visiting.

On Sunday morning our class was Come Together, Share Together before the Communion Service and lunch, and then the weekend was over - far too quickly.

We hope you'll be able to join us next year for another wonderful Women's Retreat.





## EDMONTON COMMUNITY OF CHRIST TRIES SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

What do you do when the traditional worship service becomes difficult to do every Sunday? What do you do when there are potential children to attend church but no one feels they have the time or energy to do weekly Sunday school along with their other responsibilities? What do you do when children have stopped coming to church?

At Edmonton Community of Christ, our answer is:

1. Pray. We pray for wisdom a lot.
2. Get together and begin to think differently. What are our strengths? What we *can* do?
3. Take a risk. We have begun to plan creatively and to think "What if..." Then we try things.
4. Let go. We can't do everything. We can't even do everything we used to be able to do. So we try to think about what matters most and have given ourselves permission to let some things go.
5. Celebrate. We want to feel good about our successes and the joy of being together. Visiting has become an important focus.

"Be a joyful people. Laugh and play and sing, embodying the hope and freedom of the gospel." D & C 161: 1b

As a result, we are trying a new format for worship services this fall. First we let adult Sunday school go so we could visit before we worship. Some Sundays this is followed by the traditional preaching (including some DVD sermons) or sharing service.

Once per month we plan to have an activity based, child focused worship service following the Lectionary weekly theme. We had a wonderful time worshipping with ten children at our first one. Children read or recited scripture, led a responsive reading, worked with adults to create news and needs posters, took up the offering and sang action songs with the adults. They searched for super hero clues before exploring the story of Esther—a Bible super hero with the real super powers of courage and faith, and made their own "super hero mask"! We are exploring the possibility of holding the occasional activity based service off site.

One Sunday, we let hymns take us through the elements of worship, including Communion. Our next venture will be to hold Bible Study as a form of worship. We are excited to learn the format called "Spiritual Formation Bible Study" from Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith at our Theology Weekend!

Are we sure how all this will all turn out? No! We realize that change is messy so we're content to figure it out as we go and give it some time. Does it still take a lot of work? Yes! However very little worthwhile comes without effort. When we give our best effort the Spirit of God works along- side us. "Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you." D & C 162: 3a

"Who knows what the Spirit of God yet can do, what joy may be tasted, or what promise come true?" (CCS # 77)



Marian Thompson  
Pastor Edmonton

## NEITA TURNS NINETY!

## LETHBRIDGE

On October 17th, Neita Kirk turned 90. Twelve of Neita's family members came out to the party. Two of her five sons, their wives, children and grandchildren joined our church family for a total of 23 people. We all had lots of fun visiting and learning more about Neita and her family, and of course, eating the ice cream cake.





# 2 PER CENT OF HILLS OF PEACE MEMORIES 2015



Top left  
Brenda  
Senga, our  
Busy Bee



Top Right  
Carole and  
Ken Dudley,  
Michigan,  
Guest  
Ministry at the  
Spiritual  
Retreat'

Centre Left Audrey Probe Hollywood Games Night the youngest and most adorable member of the opposing team,. (I know, I'm biased she's my granddaughter)



Right Prayer Flag for World Conference: "Spreading our love to all, diversity of cultures, being good neighbours, eh!, beauty in nature, caring for all, keeping the peace, polite & respectful, busy beavers, God is Canadian." One of many made at the Women's Retreat

Below Left Thank goodness for Jahnelle Geddes, I just haven't mastered the selfie. Apparently you're supposed to move your hand, not your body.



Bottom Hollywood Games Night ... so much fun. Our word was "canoe" we spelled "ocean". I think we won the point.

By Lisa Neudorf - Camping and Retreat Specialist





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