

WHAT'S UP... IN THE CWM



Community of Christ

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME

I am constantly in awe of the unique sense of community our faith tradition has created over the years. What a beautiful blessing community can be! When I dwell on this, I can't help but think about the incredible challenges our ancestors were confronted with as they forged ahead with a renewed sense of purpose, belonging, and mission. They labored to lay the foundation for us in our local communities, to help us become more inclusive, and to become a worldwide faith tradition that values the perspectives of all people. As I've traveled with the church in various capacities, I've experienced this same sense of renewal in congregations around the world; Canada West Mission Centre is no exception. Since arriving in early April, I've received such a warm welcome from members across the mission centre, and I already feel a great sense of connectedness and belonging.

Let me introduce myself...my name is Parker Johnson,



Canada West Mission Centre's new *Church Mission and Young Adult Ministry Specialist* assigned to the Calgary Congregation. The feeling of hope and innovation is contagious in Canada West, and I am so proud to be a part of it!

A little about myself:

I was born and raised in rural Oklahoma, and I'm a lifelong member of Community of Christ and an international business development professional. I've long been involved in the World Church, having served as a World Service Corps volunteer in 2007 right here in Canada West Mission Centre, a World Conference delegate for the Oklahoma Mission Center (my home mission center), and most recently as a member of the Young Adult Giving Committee. My professional background includes the areas of communications, change management, and business development. I earned my bachelor's degree in 2010 at the University of Oklahoma in Media Communications and recently completed my master's degree in International Management at Colorado State University in 2015. My career has afforded me the opportunity to represent multiple organizations in Asia,

Europe, North America and South America in strategic and crisis communications capacities, and my writing has been recognized by several prestigious organizations such as the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), Ragan Communications, and Hermes Creative Awards. I've been with my partner, Preston, for four years, and



we have two children (dogs—mini dachshunds) named Walter & Amelia. I love black and white film photography, traveling, and hiking. Thanks for having me. It's good to be home!

Christ's Mission, Our Mission!

I look forward to meeting you! Please feel free to contact me at the email address below...I'd love to hear from you!

Parker Johnson
parker@communityofchrist.ca

May 2016

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Are you seeking a spiritual home?

Community of Christ is a welcoming, loving faith community that values the worth of every person as a child of God. We provide a safe space for you to explore and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. Come discover renewed purpose for your life through compassionate, Christ-like service that ends suffering and fosters justice and peace.



WELCOME

Welcome to the May 2016 edition of What's Up...In the CWM. This issue has been mailed to an additional 450 non-resident Canada West Mission members. If we've been out of touch, we apologize, and please know that we would like to be in contact with you more often in the future. We hope you enjoy our newsletter, the insights, information and photos of friends and church members from the CWM. I would like to invite our non-resident members to participate in future issues. Send me your articles, poems, prayers and photos and if I can't fit them into an issue of What's Up, I'll post them in the Weekly Wire, our weekly announcements that I send out via email. If you're not on the email list to

receive the Weekly Wire, send me an email to debra@communityofchrist.ca and I'll add you to it. You can see current and past issues of the Weekly Wire or What's Up...In the CWM anytime on our website www.communityofchrist.ca The Weekly Wire can be found under News, Blogs current and past issues of What's UP can be found under Forms, Newsletters, Posters.

Are you travelling this summer and want to visit a congregation? go to the website and look under Congregations to find one close to you, or call me and I'll be glad to help.

I invite you to contact myself or Steve Thompson via email, phone or mail.

Steve 1-877-411-2632 ext 1
steve@communityofchrist.ca

Debra 1-877-411-2632 ext 4
debra@communityofchrist.ca

If you haven't been to Family Reunion in a while, or your own kids haven't been to camp, please think about attending this year at either Hills of Peace in Alberta or Samish Island in Washington (closer to BC)

We look forward to hearing from you.



*Debra
and
Steve*



CANADA WEST CAMPING AND EVENT CALENDAR 2016

June 3-5	Camp Genesis (8-9 yrs) Samish Island
June 4-11	World Conference - Independence Missouri
June 13	Samish Island Work Day
June 17-19	Young Adult Retreat Hills of Peace
July 3 - 8	CWM Youth Camp Hills of Peace
July 9 - 14	Family Reunion Hills of Peace
July 15 - 19	Junior Camp (8-12 yrs) Hills of Peace
July 16-23	Family Reunion Samish Island
July 23-30	Spectacular Graceland University
July 24-30	Camp Kluane (girls 12-14 yrs) Samish Island
July 31-Aug 6	Camp Chimacum (boys 12-14 yrs) Samish Island
August 7-13	Camp Kimtah (15-18 yrs) Samish Island
August 5-7	Nurturing Spirit Retreat Hills of Peace
August 14-20	Camp Mungai (10-11 yrs) Samish Island
Aug 28- Sept 2	Singles Reunion Samish Island
September 2-4	Canada West Mission Conference – Ribstone AB
Sept 23-25	Men's Retreat Hills of Peace
Sep 30–Oct 2	Women's Retreat Chilliwack
October 28-30	Singles Retreat Samish Island

Note: Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat is cancelled for 2016 due to World Conference

Canada West Mission Centre is continuing to offer camps and retreats at no charge to ensure that registration fees are not barriers to participation. Donations are accepted to help offset the costs of the events. As you consider your donations this year, please keep in mind that the high exchange rate between the US and Canadian dollars will result in higher costs to the Mission Centre to fund camps and retreats that do not take place in Canada for example Samish Island. Thank you for your past and continuing support of these events. Contact Debra Donohue for more information if needed
debra@communityofchrist.ca or
1-877-411-2632 ext 4

Register for any Hills of Peace Camp

<https://secure.communityofchrist.ca/register/cwmregistration.php>

Register for Samish Family Reunion

samishbcreunionregister@gmail.com

Register for Samish Youth Camps

<http://www.communityofchrist.ca/uploads/downloads/cwm/2016-SamishYouthCampAndRetreat-RegistrationForm-FILLABLE.dotx>

Register for Mission Conference

debra@communityofchrist.ca

MY EXPERIENCE WITH FUNDRAISING

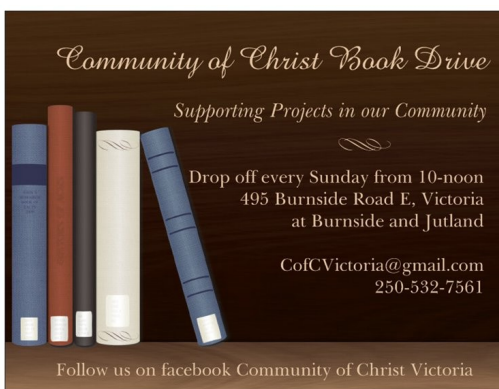


Get God

Through the Get God program, a leadership training program for young adults in the Canada West Mission Centre, I have been working on a fundraising project to raise money for improvements to the Victoria church. For the fundraiser I organized a book drive. I have learned a lot through this experience. It has taught me that sometimes generosity comes from surprising places. I have also learned the importance of asking for help, and that there are various ways to measure success.

Naturally, before we could sell books, we had to collect a lot of book donations. Congregation members asked their neighbours for donations, and took boxes to their buildings and community centres. Some of my family members were able to take donation boxes to their places of employment, and so was I.

The next step in collecting a large number of books was to call local



businesses, especially those in the surrounding neighbourhood. I naively thought this would be easy. They all knew the church was there, why wouldn't they let us put a donation box in their stores or staff rooms? I was shocked by how many said no! I was not aware that so many companies have such strict policies regarding any kind of outside fundraising. I thought it wouldn't be an

issue because I was asking for books, not money. Everyone was polite, but they had no choice but to stick to their company policies.


I admit that I got discouraged. I tried to remain positive, but I was concerned about getting enough donations. As it turned out, I didn't need to worry. A few weeks later, I was suddenly getting responses to

I don't think anyone asked IF I needed help, just what I needed done.

my social media posts, asking if I was still looking for books. A friend called because she had 5 boxes of books left over from a book drive her company had done, and she was happy to donate them to my book drive rather than see them go to recycling. Also the community centre near the church was regularly requiring their donation box to be emptied.


I personally don't drive but other congregation members and my step father were kind enough to pick up books. Debra Donohue even picked up books donated at the Vancouver congregation and brought them over to Victoria when she came to visit.

When it came time for our big book sale, we decided it would be best to set up the night before. I knew that I would need help setting up tables, sorting all the books and then pricing them. I am generally not comfortable asking for help, but I knew that I would never get everything done on my own. Luckily for me, Victoria congregation is always ready to help out. In fact, I don't think anyone asked IF I needed help, just what I needed done. Between family, friends, and church members I had almost too many helpers. And you know what? It was way more fun than it ever would have been if I had tried to just do it myself.


Community of Christ

Used
Book Sale

495 Burnside Rd E
at Jutland
Saturday February 27, 2016
10am-2pm
CofCVictoria@gmail.com
250-532-7561

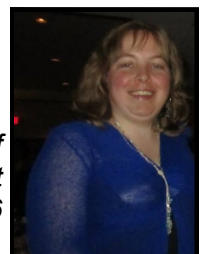


The day of the event I would have loved to see all of Victoria swarm to our church and buy up all the books! Although that didn't happen, we did get a fair amount of people and raised \$157.00, which is pretty good considering most of the books were \$1-\$3. The event was successful in another way as well. Most of our customers were people that had never been to the church before. We had opportunity to connect with members of the community, some of whom had previously not known we were there. In May we will be having a garage sale at the church. I'm interested and excited to meet more people in the community, and to see how many returning people we will be able to reconnect with.

The Get God program continues to challenge me to reach outside my comfort zone and experience things differently. Fundraising was initially full of obstacles, but finding a way around the obstacles is part of the challenge. As I go forward with this program, I know that I will continue to have opportunity to meet new people, but also opportunity to connect more with my own congregation.

As it says in the mission prayer: "God, where will your Spirit lead today?" I can't wait to find out!

Kelly Duff
Get God Participant
2015/16

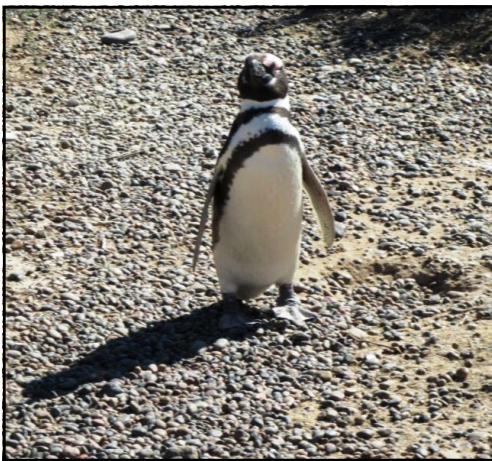


For more information about the Get God program, and to apply for the 2016/17 season, go to page 13

PASTOR SUPPORT REPORT MAY 2016

Gloria and I had a chance to go a long way down south and see green grass, flowers and trees in bloom. It is amazing what sunshine can do in renewing life to the plant kingdom. It is also amazing what the light of God shining in our souls can do to keep us spiritually healthy.

We had some unforgettable adventures this past February on a Cruise ship around the bottom part of South America. Cruising on the ship through the Patagonia channels, Chilean fjords, and the Strait of Magellan we saw amazing beautiful scenery. It was fun to watch Penguins doing their waddle walk as well as other birds and animals.



God has given us, through the Spiritual and Natural laws created, a splendid, scenic, wonderful world to visit and explore. My cave exploring, mountain climbing, scuba diving and so forth has given me insight in to some of the beauty of our world, both underground, under the ocean surface and on the mountain tops. The highest mountain I climbed with some of my family and friends was Mount Elbert in the state of Colorado. Climbing to 14,440 some feet was not achieved without a lot of effort and preparation.

"This effort," brings me to the forefront of contemplating the Spiritual and physical condition of our Community of Christ as a sort of analogy in climbing a high

mountain. We are not going to make the climb to a stronger, healthier community, Mission Center, and World church by settling down on a rock and giving up. As Pastors,

Attention! Let us bolster up and support each other with action...

Priesthood and members let us give the Mission Initiatives our best and climb that mountain. Sure it takes effort, and from about 12,000 feet up on Mount Elbert, we would walk a few steps then place our hands on our knees to temporarily rest; then onward and upward some more. Let us continually be up and persevering.

We must put some rest, on a regular basis, into our lives to prevent burnout. I think of it as recharging. As, I have met with some of our Pastors, I have stressed this. Every Evangelist blessing I have done, the Lord emphasizes finding a time to draw apart each day to a place to rest your body and mind even if it is just 20 minutes.

Be of good cheer and find courage to move out. I think of our young people and I almost want to shout and encourage them by saying: "Together, we can make this a brave New World," in spite of the hate and evil that is so prevalent. Ask for Angel help as when we are alone we are weak; but with God's Holy Spirit you and I are mighty.

The last few days I have sat at the bedside of a dear friend and family member. He is running out of time, as are so many; and he will be out of time when you read this page. Please by the Grace and Love of our God don't talk about how to catch a fish

(gather people for Christ), get the hook or net in the water and catch a fish. In my Evangelist blessing I was told if you even help bring one soul closer to a Godly life Heaven will rejoice. Attention! Let us bolster up and support each other with action; not just our Pastors but everybody. Get it? "Don't try, Do" To quote a famous movie character. Be Community of Christ.



Gloria and I were able to visit with several Pastors and congregations in this past year and plan to visit more as time permits. We are so grateful for each one of you as you walk hand in hand with your Lord.



May each of us be truly blessed in following the ways of Christ. The sands of time are flowing for each of us. May the light of Jesus the Christ, shine upon you physically and spiritually. Blessings as needed for each, whether a Pastor, Priesthood, member or friend of the church; we are all Brothers & Sisters of the One Lord!

Hope, Courage and Peace, from Wayne and Gloria Stanton.

*Wayne Stanton
Pastor Support
Coordinator*



MISSION CONFERENCE IN RIBSTONE, AB

Canada West Mission Conference will take place in Ribstone Alberta this year. This will be the most rural location that has hosted Mission Conference since we started moving around the CWM in 2010. For those of you who don't know about Ribstone, it's located very near the Saskatchewan border - and it's small, in fact Ribstone is actually a Hamlet. You don't hear *that* very often, especially when you're not attending an English Literature class. When I asked JoAnne Fraser, one of the co pastors in Ribstone, what was *in* Ribstone, she replied, 'homes, streets, and Community of Christ church'. But even though they don't have any restaurants, bowling alley's or movie theatres, Ribstone boasts a strong weekly attendance at church, and lots *and lots* of children. It's opportunities like this that shouldn't be missed. How often do we all long for a slower pace to our busy lives? Here it is folks, come on out to Mission Conference in Ribstone and find out how much easier it will be to hear the Spirit when the Spirit doesn't have to speak to you over the city's constant yelling. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to worship, celebrate and meet with each other.



This year our theme is 'The Spirit of Community'. For Community of Christ, community is our backbone, our strength through hard times, our measuring stick when we stumble and our name. Community for us, isn't just made up of one congregation, it's all of us in the Mission Centre, in Canada, and in the World.

Carman Thompson, retired assistant to Apostle Susan Oxley, is our guest minis-

**Canada West
Mission Conference**

Ribstone, Alberta September 2-4, 2016

'The Spirit of Community'

Guest Ministry Carman Thompson
Guest Speaker Stephen Robinson of 52skillz

Saturday Night Gala 'Rib Night'

David Barth from World Accord
Rod Downing Peace and Justice Minister

Please register your children as soon as possible so we can ensure we
have enough teachers

For billeting contact Rachel Pawliuk
call 780-858-2875 or r_mbuck@yahoo.ca

Hotel - Ramada Wainwright 1-866-934-7994 use code
'Community of Christ Conference' by August 5th

Registration debra@communityofchrist.ca

try this year. Carman is one of those people who, when he speaks, the softer he speaks the more you want to lean in and listen, to the point where you'll fall over yourself to get closer because you don't want to miss a

word. Can you tell that I'm very pleased Carman will be with us this year? Rod Downing will be here this year to talk about the Doctrine of Discovery, and David Barth will be joining us from World Accord. Our

special guest this year is a young man named Stephen Robinson who started a blog called 52skillz. Stephen challenged himself to learn a new skill each week for a year and posted each one on youtube. You can check him out at 52skillz.com Stephen will talk about his experiences, on Saturday afternoon, and he'll do a workshop with us in the evening. He'll even teach us a

new skill! Now for the important part, our celebration dinner on Saturday night. Ribstone will live up to their name and make this evening Rib-rageous, Rib-ellicious, and Rib-ceptional! Yep, we're havin' ribs for dinner. Mmmmmm.

You'll also get to meet the newest member of our Canada West Mission team, Parker Johnson who you can read about on the front page of this newsletter. So as you can see, this is yet another Mission Conference not to be missed.

To register for Mission Conference go to [://www.communityofchrist.ca/uploads/downloads/cwm/2016-CWM-MissionConferenceRegistration-Form.pdf](http://www.communityofchrist.ca/uploads/downloads/cwm/2016-CWM-MissionConferenceRegistration-Form.pdf), or you can email me at debra@communityofchrist.ca or phone me at 1-877-411-2632 .

For billeting contact Rachel Pawliuk r_mbuck@yahoo.ca or call her at 780-858-2875.

We have a group rate at the Ramada in Wainwright of \$145.99 per night, I know it sounds steep, but you can have up to five people in one room and it includes a deluxe continental breakfast, free wifi and parking, and a fridge, microwave and DVD player in every room. Oh and there's also a pool, waterslide and hot tub. To secure this rate quote "Community of Christ Mission Conference" and book before August 5th. The toll free number is 1-866-934-7994 and the address is 1510 27th Street, Wainwright AB. Wainwright is about 20 minutes away from Ribstone, and most of the church members live there or nearby.

Being a huge fan of Shakespeare, not to mention the wonderful story of Hamlet, I fully expect to love every moment of my time in the *Hamlet of Ribstone*.

Debra Donohue
Canada West Mission
Conference Manager



A MESSAGE FROM APOSTLE ART SMITH

Dear friends of Canada West Community of Christ,

I'm very grateful to Debra for inviting me to step away from two weeks of Council of Twelve and World Church Leadership Council meetings, and the press of preparing for the 2016 world conference, to share a few words with you.

I feel most honoured to be the apostle for your mission centre. I grew up in Gatineau, Quebec hearing stories from my father (born and raised in Victoria, British Columbia), but before this year my only trip through western Canada was back when I was about eight years old. It has been absolutely thrilling getting to know western Canada a bit better. The real pleasure, though, has been meeting Community of Christ members and friends in the west.

Since my assignment to you I've been able to attend the amazing Ribstone Enrichment Weekend (if you've never been to Ribstone, you must not miss the chance to be at mission conference this year!), to be part of mission conference in Saskatoon, to participate in this year's pastor's retreat in Edmonton, and to visit our church folk in Calgary, Lethbridge, Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Chilliwack, Meadow Ridge, Prince George and Victoria. Wherever I have gone, I've found the Holy Spirit already at work everywhere I've been. I've found communities of people engaged in the mission of Jesus Christ. We've shared good food and friendship. We've shared communion together.

What a wonderful Community of Christ you are in Canada West! The words of a friend of the church, who I met a few weeks ago in Calgary, are so very true. Crystal says, "It seems like Community of Christ has no idea how wonderful it is. You are a gift to the world!"

I look forward to us working together to share the gift that Community of Christ is, who we are and what we're called to do, with Canada West and with the world. I believe that an unbelievable future is before us. These divine words to the Church certainly apply to Canada West Mission:

By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God's ultimate vision for the church. – Doctrine and Covenants 164:9a

I hope to see many of you at world conference and in my future travels around Canada West Mission.

Apostle Arthur Smith



Senlac Alberta

We started services at the Senlac congregation again on Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 am and then again on May 29. The services throughout the summer will be sporadic as there are conflicting schedules.

By the time you read this we will have held a memorial service for our long time member Isabel Cornish on May 14 at 2pm in Saskatoon. On May 22 we participated in a baby blessing service in Saskatoon. We plan to continue with services in June. All are welcome to join us.

Contact Becky Middleton 306-228-2949 home or 306-210-7117 cell.



Edmonton, Alberta

This spring has been a busy time for Edmonton Community of Christ. We enjoyed hosting the Pastor's and Young Adult Retreat in mid-April. Now we are in the early stages of co-sponsoring a Syrian Refugee family. Recently Antione Chealala from the Maronite Catholic Church in Edmonton was a guest speaker at Community of Christ, giving the congregation more information about the family we will assist. We have made a financial commitment and are looking forward to opportunities to support the family in other ways. We are continuing our relationship with Edmonton's Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS) by holding a Ravine Walk and lunch on May 15th as a fund-raising event. Our goal is to raise enough money to sponsor one bed in the emergency shelter for a year.

World Conference June 4-11, 2016

We're hoping that everyone has this issue of What's Up...In the CWM by the time World Conference starts. Your Canada West Mission staff will be posting photos and more everyday to our CWM Facebook page. You'll find us at Community of Christ Canada West Mission. Be sure to 'like' our page and you'll receive all of our posts.

Can't Go to World Conference? Participate anyway!

There will be lots to see of World Conference via your computer or mobile device. There will be live webcasts or you can simply go to the website after and event to view the recorded event. We encourage you to take part in World Conference this way if you have the technology.



Non-Attending Registration

(Get all conference materials – in hard copy and/or electronically)

Register Here: <http://bit.ly/1TAVb8U>

Watch webcast services through the week

Info Here: <http://bit.ly/27go1FK>

Get the World Conference App for your computer or smart phone:

Info Here: <http://www.cofchrist.org/announcements>

(scroll down several items to the App Announcement)



Young Adults! Sign-up to receive alerts about information relating to Young Adult events and interests at the 2016 World Conference. Just text @2016wcya to 81010 so you can begin receiving the latest reminders and announcements. Standard text messages fees may apply. International Young Adults: Those outside the US and Canada can sign-up to receive messages using their email by going to <https://www.remind.com/join/2016wcya> or by downloading the Remind 101 app.

An Event App to Help Navigate World Conference

The World Conference Planning Team is excited to launch the 2016 World Conference event app for smart phones, tablets, and desktop computers. It's free and available in English, French, and Spanish. Great for attendees and for staying connected to the event remotely.

App features include: schedule, registration, preparation materials, important documents and resolutions, info booth, and more. You will have the option to log in so you can create personalized schedules and mark documents as favorites.

If you registered to receive electronic materials, they will be delivered through the Documents link on the app. Once downloaded, the app functions offline and will not require WIFI access. Daily bulletins will be posted each evening, so you can update your app at night or in the morning to have the most current material.

This app is available for Android, iOS, Windows, and Blackberry devices. It can also be viewed through any Internet browser at www.eventmobi.com/wc2016

Download the event app today!

Google Play – (*Android 2.3.3 and higher*), Apple App Store – (*iOS 7.0 and higher*)

BlackBerry World – (*BlackBerry 10 and higher*), Windows Phone Store – (*Windows Phone 8 and higher*)

Non-Resident Members

Do you live outside the area of a congregation? Would you like more contact with the church on an occasional basis?

To ensure we have up to date contact information, call or email Debra Donohue:

debra@communityofchrist.ca; 1-877-411-2632 ext 4

To request a visit from a church representative, call or email Steve Thompson

steve@communityofchrist.ca; 1-877-411-2632 ext 1

GOOD ADVICE

When I was a young girl, twelve going on thirteen, I was complaining to my grandma that it felt like the days were moving too slowly and my birthday would never arrive. I *really* wanted to be a teenager. She looked at me, paused for a moment and told me not to wish for time to pass quickly, because each year of my life would go by faster than the last, and it wouldn't be long before I was wishing for just the opposite, for the days to move slower. She was a little sad and thoughtful and seemed genuinely concerned that I understand the point she was making. She passed away in 1983.



Debra Donohue and Betty Robertson

Just like grandma said it would, each year has gone by faster than the previous one. It feels like only a couple weeks ago we had the Encounter Weekend of World Religions event in Vancouver.

Encounter is an educational organization that promotes greater religious literacy and celebrates religious diversity. Our emphasis is to blend academic and experiential learning that brings people into contact with what Encounter terms the four P's of the world religions: people, places, practices and philosophies. (from the Encounter website)

Brian Carwana did a wonderful job of educating us about the different religious houses before we visited them. I knew I would enjoy visiting the locations but I have to say that I'm surprised by how much I enjoyed Brian's talks. He's not only knowledgeable and informative, but he is very charismatic and entertaining. It

was a great weekend and I hope all of you get the opportunity to attend one at some point. They have a regular schedule in the greater Toronto area, but our Mission Centre President Steve Thompson is hoping to start bringing Brian out to various locations in the Canada West Mission Centre annually. You can check out Encounter at www.worldreligions.ca

I was in Edmonton for the Pastor's and Young Adult Retreat a few weeks ago. You don't often hear those two names in the same title for a retreat. The goal was for all of us to open the lines of communication and really make sure we're hearing what the other person is saying, not just *think* we know and move on. Everyone had the opportunity to share their thoughts on different issues. Surprisingly or not so surprisingly, the young adult issues were the same as many of the pastors or adults who were there. We want to try new things, be more open, invite people to church, and stand up for what we believe.

We have a lot going on in BC this Spring/Summer. By the time you read this article the Victoria congregation will have held their Yard Sale and Book Sale on May 14th, and Chilliwack will have held both weekends of their annual Garage Sale May 14th and 21st. Chilliwack's garage sale is so popular and so successful that they do it all again in the fall. If you have something to donate or you'd like to shop, the dates will be October 15th and 22nd. On May 22nd, Meadow Ridge is holding their first ever Neighbourhood Party with free hotdogs, face painting and live music from Dos Cervecas. Dos Cervecas translates to two beers, and the two Beers are Alexis Beer and

Bonnie Levitt. You'll have time to plan for a couple of events coming up in Chilliwack and Vancouver in July. July 3rd is the annual Strawberry Social in Chilliwack. Last year about 100 people show up for burgers, music and you guessed it ... strawberries. We have three musical acts, Dos Cervecas (they really get around these days), The Chilliwack Harmony Chorus who sing in barbershop style, and Damian Brennan a charismatic Irish singer. Vancouver puts on an annual Neighbourhood Party, but these year we've kicked it up a notch. We'll have lots of free food, games for the kids and face painting just like we've had in the past, but we'll also have a stage set up in the parking lot and the Seabillies will be playing for the neighbourhood. Two of our Vancouver members are in the band, Dan Beer (yes another talented Beer) and Katherine Goheen. We'd love to see you at any or all of these events, if you're able, please let me know you're coming at debra@communityofchrist.ca or 1-877-411-2632. We want to have enough food for everyone!

So yes, life can be busy but I'm going to try to enjoy every bit of it. If I could talk to my grandmother now, I'd tell her that I've always remembered that conversation with her, and I could feel her sadness at the realization her life was slipping past too quickly. I've always appreciated her effort that day, to help me understand the importance of taking time to enjoy the everyday moments.

Thanks Grandma

*Debra Donohue
Outreach Specialist*



IT STARTED WITH A CONVERSATION

It started with a conversation between a young adult and “no longer a” young adult and it became a vision for so much more. Last fall I wrote about the Young Adult Dialogue Project through which Rachelle Smalldon was guiding our young adults in conversation and discernment about their future involvement with Community of Christ. On April 16, thirty-eight young adults and congregational leaders from Vancouver to Winnipeg gathered in Edmonton to share in a discussion about the young adult's journey and what the future of Community of Christ can hold for everyone.

The young adults shared what they learned about themselves, what was important to them in Community of Christ and their role in creating a sustainable future for Community of Christ.

This is what I learned ...

Community of Christ is important to everyone

Our young adults want future generations to have the same experience they had growing up

The congregation leaders and young adults are not so divided, we share many of the same concerns, hopes and dreams

Our young adults want to be involved in their local congregations but are looking for mentorship, guidance and the opportunity to be engaged

They believe Community of Christ is radically different and the world needs to learn about who we are and the mission of Jesus Christ

Young Adults are looking for meaningful ways to truly live in community and represent Christ in their daily encounters

Sunday morning worship doesn't always “do it” and they want to explore “church without walls”

In the afternoon, participants met in local small groups (*e.g., all attendees from Saskatchewan were a small group*) where we discussed our visions and plans for the future. At the end of the small group meetings, participants gathered together to begin creating a collective goal for everyone to work toward in their local areas. The following information provided by Rachelle Smalldon is what we accomplished:

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace. The world is calling us - in our faith communities - to be significant, inclusive and relevant in our relationships.

After determining our collective goal, we discussed what steps were needed to help us move closer to a common vision:

We identified 3 key things which need to happen in order to move [us] closer to our vision:

We need to let our community know who/where/what we are and do something they care about.

Step outside and meet our neighbours.

We will get to know the needs of our community as we become more involved in those communities.

We decided we will know we've got it when: We are a better reflection of the communities or neighbourhoods we belong to (e.g., socio-economic and multi-cultural communities, LGBT community).

We then identified 3 key plans/goals each local area can realistically achieve in the next year:

Within the next year, in our local area, we will move closer to our collective vision by:

Continuing to support our charities/causes and be more intentional about sharing what we're doing (ie. Welcoming Community Network, Food Bank, etc.)

Trying at least one new idea (ie. “football church” or take on a new community/charity/cause).

And in all of these ... be intentional about having young adult inclusion, leadership and support in these activities. Support causes and try new ideas.

I felt encouraged as I realized both leaders and young adults have many of the same goals and there is a willingness to work together to meet those common goals. I encourage you to engage in continuing conversation as to how we can truly be Community of Christ.

In closing, I want to share Rachelle's words of encouragement: “... *Feel proud of the steps you have taken toward making your local and larger community an even better reflection of what you feel the world is calling you, an intergenerational community, to become. ... Take these conversations, visions and plans seriously and consider how you can make a bit*



Andrew MacArthur from Lethbridge had his Graduation banquet May 13th for Chinook High School, convocation is June 29th. He has been accepted into the Carpentry Trades Program at Lethbridge Community College and has already acquired apprenticeship hours through a Trades program at high school. Andrew will be attending SPEC this summer which will be his last year. Andrew has attended SPEC for the past 3 years.

more time in your life to ensure these happen. ... The next step is to act on it and “do what you say you're going to do”.

*Lisa Neudorf Camping and
Retreat Specialist*



FROM THE MISSION CENTRE PRESIDENT

“JUST TOO MUCH TO SAY!”

And Jesus came and said to them,... “Go therefore...”

There is no time or room to write about details. Here is a summary of my calendar from the first four months of the year:

January: Saturday, 23rd: memorial service in Calgary; Sunday, 24th: speaking and visiting with Meadow Ridge congregation; Monday and Tuesday, 25th and 26th: meetings with leadership of Chilliwack, Vancouver, and Victoria congregations; Saturday & Sunday, 30th and 31st: visit in Calgary to introduce new staff person to the congregation

February: Saturday, 21st: meet with Saskatoon leadership; Sunday, 22nd: speak at Sunday service; Saturday, 27th: meet with Prince Albert members in evening, Sunday, 28th: speak Sunday morning in Prince Albert, then visit with Paddockwood members Sunday afternoon: Monday morning, 29th: visit with Porcupine Plain members

March: Thursday to Saturday, 10th to 12th: Canadian church leadership meetings in Guelph, Ontario; Friday to Sunday, 18th to 20th: Encounter World Religions Weekend in Vancouver

April: 2nd to 8th, Saturday to Thursday: travel with Apostle Art Smith and Bishop of Canada Dar Shepherdson to Lethbridge, Calgary, Chilliwack, and Meadow Ridge congregations, plus visits to members in Salmon Arm, Kelowna, and Prince George (Art & Dar continued to Victoria and Vancouver without me); Saturday, 9th: Preside at Calgary Congregation Business Meeting; Sunday, 10th speak at Ribstone; Friday to Sunday, 15th to 17th: CWM Pastors and Young Adults Retreat in Edmonton.

Whew! That's visits to 12 of 15 congregations in CWM since New Year's – and two visits or more to some of them! As you will perceive there is an overt purpose to each of the visits – meeting, speaking, consulting, guiding, or presiding. There is always an underlying purpose: visiting, listening, understanding, serving, supporting, and ministering. There is nothing more important in my travelling through the mission centre than meeting members and friends in our congregations and trying my best to understand the issues and concerns (both personally and about the church) that are of most significance to them. I have felt welcomed everywhere I have gone. I thank you for the privilege of visiting with you in your congregations and in your homes. You are truly a blessing to me in ways I cannot describe here.

There are stories and lessons that could be shared from various parts of those first four months of the year. I am running out of room here, but I refer you to Lisa's article about the Pastors and Young Adults Retreat. When Apostle Art Smith did a Facebook post about the retreat, one of the comments that came back was, “What's a Pastors and Young Adults Retreat?” This suggests we were breaking some new ground. That was followed up by a comment on the “feedback form” at the end of the retreat that asked, “Why is this the first time we've done this?” This suggests we had a good event and a good experience on our hands. Watch for more follow up to this retreat in the future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at World Conference and then at the camps and retreats this summer. May God bless each of us as we do our parts to promote and fulfil Christ's Mission in our communities.

And Jesus came and said to them... “And remember, I am with you always...”

Matthew 28:18, 19 adapted



Steve Thompson
Canada West Mission Centre President
and CFO



2016 WORLD CONFERENCE: THE CHASM AND BRIDGE TO ATTAWAPISKAT

World Conference is always an exciting, dynamic Spirit-filled time! On the other hand, Attawapiskat – a remote First Nations community near James Bay – has experienced 100 suicide attempts in the previous six months in a community of 2000. Such a chasm – hope, joy, peace and love contrasted with such overwhelming pain and despair.

But this World Conference also contains a potential bridge to such situations as Attawapiskat. One of the resolutions is “**G-7 Supporting Indigenous Peoples**”.

Firstly it calls for the church to renounce the **Doctrine of Discovery**. This doctrine dates back to the mid-1400s and, in essence, stated that when the European explorers found a “new land” they could claim it for their monarch, meaning that the indigenous people had no rights to the land (Thomas Jefferson extended it to the U.S.; in Canada it was an assumed British legacy).

The issue? It was an officially sanctioned Christian doctrine and was used to justify the ensuing massacres, dislocations and genocidal dynamics during that period of conquest and colonization (the few dissenting voices back then were ignored).

Worse – I didn't know that even in **2005** the Doctrine of Discovery was an underlying influence in a US Supreme Court decision (City of Sherrill, NY v. Oneida Nation).

So while I had nothing to do with creating the Doctrine of Discovery, it has helped give me a dominant place in the world, and continues subtly to have its influence. I hope World Conference will heed the counsel to “Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God.” [DC 164:3b].

Renouncing the Doctrine of Discovery will not solve Attawapiskat but we all need to decide whether it is a step in the right direction (and thus might create a pylon for a bridge) or is somehow wrong-headed.

Similarly **G-7** urges governments to comply with the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. The Declaration outlines steps and affirmations that might help indigenous people throughout the world find their due place in the modern world. It is a complex though non-binding document, trying to balance the notion of State sovereignty with the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and governance, etc.

The Declaration upholds basic human rights and then gets into issues of the harmful legacy of history and how to rectify it; issues of language and cultural preservation; issues of education and livelihood; and issues of land tenure and resources. It states that it should be interpreted according to “principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith”.

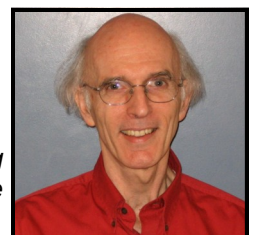


While Canada (along with the U.S., Australia and New Zealand), refused to sign it in 2007, all have since accepted it. It was not so much a change of heart, as {self-servingly} deciding that existing laws already abide by the Charter's provisions.

Progress has been made, but places like Attawapiskat reveal the **depth** of the core problems. As a church dedicated to peace and justice **we must not remain silent** in the midst of such appalling poverty and despair, but instead find that just, restorative (for us all) “bridge to Attawapiskat”.

The Canadian Peace / Justice Committee is re-forming its First Nations subcommittee. I heartily invite anyone with a passion for this issue to contact me rdowning@shaw.ca; 604-535-6550.

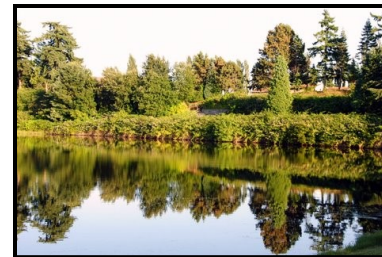
*Rod Downing
Peace and Justice*





Summer Camps and Reunions

Are coming fast!
Have you registered yet?
See info on page 3



RECRUITING NON-RESIDENT PASTORS!

Do you like to travel within your province?
Do you enjoy meeting new people?
Are you enthusiastic about Community of Christ?
Got some time on your hands?

Canada West Mission Centre is looking for persons to visit non-resident members in each province.
Interested? Contact Steve Thompson for more information.
steve@communityofchrist.ca; 1-877-411-2632 ext 1

GET GOD 2016/17

Greatness, Education, Training - Goals, Outreach, Discipleship

Canada West Mission young adults ages 21-35. You're invited to participate in the Get God Project. We're looking for young adults with fresh and unique ideas for outreach. (introduce youth and young adults to church, church programs, church activities and camping) So tell us what you would do if you could create a program. Put together a plan for outreach and a commitment to your congregation or community that will fit into your schedule. The plan should be something that is manageable over a 12 month period as a small monthly or weekly youth oriented activity at your church or in your community, or it could be 2 or 4 larger scale 'one-off' activities.

Remember that a single event is great for *introducing* Community of Christ to a community, but a sustainable and ongoing activity allows your community to get to *know* us. We'll expect you to set goals, participate in a monthly meeting via skype, meet monthly with your mentor, keep a journal, and keep up with all of the Child Protection training, but the rest is up to you. P.S. If you need some ideas for projects, we have a page of those online too!

The selection process is not based on what you are currently doing in the church. What you *want* to do, and are *willing* to do are what is most important.

Get God Application Form:

<http://www.communityofchrist.ca/uploads/downloads/cwm/2017-GetGodApplicationForm.pdf>

All successful participants will get to travel to a Community of Christ destination with the team at the end of the year! Our destination hasn't been chosen yet for 2016/17, but wherever we end up, you'll be able to celebrate your accomplishments of the past year, share your experiences with the other participants, and worship in a beautiful setting.

For more information please contact:

Steve Thompson steve@communityofchrist.ca or 1-877-411-2632 ext 1

Debra Donohue debra@communityofchrist.ca or 1-877-411-2632 ext 4

Applications are due by **July 30, 2015**



WHAT IS UP... IN THE VANCOUVER CONGREGATION

Outreach

There are two key initiatives underway at this time, sponsorship of a refugee family and the congregational blessing.

After much discussion and deliberation our congregation decided to become a private sponsor of a refugee family. This means the congregation is responsible for providing the funds to support a family for one year and for assisting the family to adjust to life in Canada.

We have signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and are waiting to have a family assigned to our congregation. A core group of people within the congregation have committed to being available to assist the sponsorship. The plan is to locate the family in the Langley area as this is an accessible locale for the core group of people. The timelines are not known but in the mean time there is much to do, Chris Phelps lead an adult class on Sunday mornings in the month of May to discuss expectations and roles

We have set aside the monies to support the family but additional contributions are welcome. Simply bring or send your donation to the Church and designate the donation as for the "refugee family." If you are thinking of contributing your time please contact Chris Phelps so that he can give you more information as it becomes available.

In addition to assist the refugees with immediate needs the team leaders also approved a \$5000 donation to the UN World Hunger Fund.

How did we have the monies to support a family for a year?

We have been blessed with bequests from a number of congregants and so we had funds at the ready to make the commitment. Reaching out to those in need is a good way to use monies left by those who reached out in their lives. In addition, we are now sharing our facility with two other congregations. This has been a big change for the congregation as there are now significant limitations on our use of the building. The monies brought in from building use have freed up financial resources to do more outreach and more programming.

If you wish to use the Vancouver facility for an event, advance notice is required. Our facility use is on our website on the calendar and for more information please contact Vic Suddaby.

Congregational Blessing

We are in the process of preparing for a congregational blessing. What is this you may ask? Well, it is a process of preparation for a congregational sacrament. After that well, it is a process each congregation has to develop and design. It is the process that is of

interest to us as a body. We are working with Evangelist Dean Wight of Bellingham. There is a team of people working with Dean on this process. Currently home visits are taking place with Evangelist Wight and a local priesthood member. If you are associated with the Vancouver Congregation and would like a home visit please contact Debra Donohue at debra@communityofchrist.ca and tag your email with Evangelist visit Vancouver.



Rosilyn Coulson



**Community of Christ
Gospel Music Sing-a-long
and Jam**
First Sunday of every month

10:15am Gospel Choir sing-a-long
11:00am Coffee and Conversation
11:20 Community Gathering and Worship

604-435-5333 Kaslo
3333 Kaslo
gospelchoir
www.cofc.ca

Free Soup Sundays
1st Sunday of every month
12:30pm, everyone is welcome

604-435-5333 Kaslo Street Vancouver
604-435-5344
info.ve@cofchristvancouver.ca

Worship and Spiritual Practice

Our Sunday morning worship has the following format:

Communion Sundays:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.15am | Gospel Choir in the lower hall |
| 11am | Coffee and Conversation in the lower hall |
| 11.20 – 12.15 | Whole Community Gathering and Worship |

Remaining Sundays

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 10.15am | Choose your Activities (Classes etc.) |
| 11am | Coffee and Conversation in the lower hall |
| 11.20 – 12.15pm | Whole Community Gathering and Worship |

On alternate Wednesday evenings a small group meets at the Vancouver church for "Listening for the Soul." For more information, please contact Shannon McAdam or Lanette Vawter.

RIBSTONE



Surrounded by 100 of her friends and family, Olena Pawliuk became a member of Community of Christ on January 10. Olena was baptized by Lisa Neudorf from Saskatoon and confirmed by Pastors Darleene Skinner and Joanne Fraser. Leila Goheen brought the message on "Roots and Wings." Olena had planned her entire service and asked all of the participants. She had to make sure that her baptism occurred after the moment she turned 8 at 11:39 a.m. Olena's family provided a wonderful meal for the congregation following the worship service.



Jesus and Me for preschoolers meets the second Friday of every month during the school year. Each JAM begins and ends with songs and finger plays and a discussion of the month's theme with Pastor Darleene. The kids have a lot of free play time with the toys. And in the

midst of the playtime, Courtney McCrea leads craft time and the kids have snacks (usually provided by Leila Goheen). Shown here are buddies Isabella Goheen and Montana McCrea.



Ribstone participated in the Provost, Alberta World Day of Prayer (Ribstone belongs to the Provost Ministerial). Tara Schaffer (seen reading in the photo) and Emelia Goheen (seated, second from the left) were the two readers who represented Ribstone. This year's theme was from Cuba. The ladies were invited to dress as Cuban girls and women.



The Eager Saints Troop meet monthly under the direction of leaders Tara Schaffer, Pastor Darleene Skinner and Leila Goheen. The kids are shown in this photo looking up a Bible reference to do with the month's Bible story.



Each year on Good Friday, our women's leader, Janet Perry, organizes a somber worship service involving many of the congregational women as participants. After the service, the men of the congregation provide the brunch. For the first time in years, they didn't set off the fire alarm.

Because of many donations (two larger donations in particular: one from Marie and Harry Andersen in memory of Marie's sister, Isabelle

Cornfield and the other from Pete Cote in memory of his wife, Ruth) we were able to purchase a larger, more suitable communion table. Janet Perry, church decorator, provided the arrangement on top of the table.



Youth Reader's Theatre – Under the direction of their Sunday School teacher Tracy Smith, those from the youth class who were in attendance on Palm Sunday did a moving reader's theatre. Left to Right: Tyler Ell, Emelia Goheen, Nicole Fraser, Parker Selte, Landon Olson and Kelby Smith.



Community of Christ

6061 Southpark Place
Surrey, BC, V3X-2C1
Canada



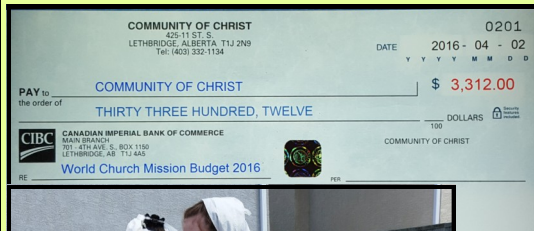
CWM Website

LETHBRIDGE

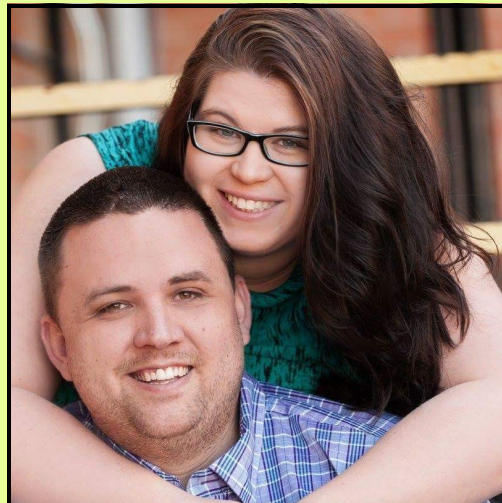
March 2nd was a very proud day for first time great grandmother, Nancy Panting, as Barrin Walter Piecharka made an appearance. Looks like Lethbridge will have a Sunday school in a year or so, as first time grandparents, Joanne and Bernie Pohl wait for a little boy to be born in June.



Lethbridge had the privilege to be the first stop on the Art, Dar and Steve Tour. After a meal of sandwiches and 3 different home made soups followed by ice cream sundaes, we gathered for a wonderful visit with our leadership. A cheque for \$3,312.00, from our Easter Sacrifice Offering was presented to Dar for our help with World Church. Everyone was surprised and pleased with the depth of sacrifice our little group made. A wonderful evening was shared with all.



In April the Ladies from Lethbridge attended a Bridal Shower for Nicole Boote, hosted by her sister Melissa. As we sat in the beautiful warm sunny back yard, Nicole watched as toilet paper wedding dresses were modeled - suggestions for her special day in July. Our Best wishes go to Nicole and Caleb.



By Nancy Panting

