

# WHAT'S UP...IN THE CWM



May 2018

What's Up...In the CWM

## SAMISH ISLAND ARTS RETREAT

*This year the Arts Retreat was almost cancelled at the last moment until Chris Phelps and Dan Beer stepped in as co-directors to make sure it took place. The 43 people who attended were very grateful ~ Debra.*

The last weekend of April brought us the 2018 version of the Arts Retreat at Samish Island. The theme was 'Yes... and' which expresses the idea of being open to new ideas and various types of collaborations.



The weekend was very loosely scheduled, and there was lots of space for creativity to flourish.

A wonderful discussion took place on Saturday afternoon to consider the future of the Arts weekend (and a variety of potential names for it). There appeared to be a great deal of support for continuing the retreat in some form, and there is a need for that type of forum for creativity, but there is still a need for a leadership team to pull together and commit to organizing the retreat next year.



If you are interested in leading a creative retreat weekend into the future, please contact Chris Phelps and he would be happy to discuss the next steps with you.

Thanks to all who attended - you are the ones who made the weekend special and meaningful.



Your Arts Retreat co-directors  
Chris Phelps and Dan Beer

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# THE EXPERIENCE WORSHIP PROJECT

The Experience Worship Project was born after I attended the FLOW Weekend at Meadow Ridge with Sean Langdon in September 2017. He was the featured ministry, and the classes on creative worship were excellent! I knew that we, in Chilliwack, needed to hear more. I called Pastor Shonnet Allen on my way home and she told me to go ahead and organize it.

The weekend started on Friday night with creative games led by Debra Donohue. These were meant to get us thinking outside the box and to get our creative juices flowing. There were word association games, which were very difficult to start, but became easier once we got into it. We each had to create pictures starting with the same two lines. It was interesting to see how different they turned out, even though we started with the same lines. To finish the night, we broke into two teams and had to solve a



problem with the few items on hand. It was a fun evening!

Saturday, we discussed many aspects of worship, including what people want from worship to what constitutes worship (it's not just about 1 hour on Sunday anymore!) to how we can provide worshipful experiences by doing different things.

After a great day of class sessions and dinner together, we went on a creative team-building expedition to the Escape Room in Abbotsford. Two teams tried to escape two different situations. These Escape Rooms really make one think in a non-linear fashion and force one to consider multiple aspects while working together to solve issues and attain a common goal. It was an excellent choice for team-building and kept us thinking outside the box.

Sunday morning, Sean lead the adult class at church, which was focused on the congregation's responsibilities and contributions to the worship experience. Everyone is responsible for the worship experience, not just those with organizational roles

(presiders, speaker, musician, ushers, etc.). We then had a creative worship service, with Sean leading Faith Interviews with Debra Donohue and me. This was a wonderful way to get to know people more than just peripherally and provided a spiritual insight into our lives.

Following a delicious potluck lunch, we went on a community Prayer Walk. We walked around the neighborhood for about 45 minutes spending time in prayer, focusing on different aspects of the neighborhood. These prayers were focused on families and children, pets and veterinarians, first responders, seniors, business owners, and many other aspects of everyday life.

When we got back to the church, we took a group selfie, which ended our fun and creative



Experience Worship Project!

Since we participated in this workshop, the Chilliwack congregation is using visual effects more, and we're experimenting with alternative worship services. Want to know more?

Come 'Experience Worship with Chilliwack'!

Cheers! Bonnie Levitt





## FROM THE MISSION CENTRE PRESIDENT

Time Marches On...

Can you believe we are already into May? The fifth month of 2018. The month of Mother's Day and the Victoria Day long weekend. How did we get here so quickly?

What have you enjoyed since New Year's? There is undoubtedly news of several Canada West Mission Centre events elsewhere in this newsletter – both past and upcoming. I won't go into details but I want to at least mention them: our first Electronic Mission Conference; the Winter Youth Camp in Saskatoon; the Weekend of World Religions in Vancouver and in Calgary; the Nurturing Spirit Retreat at Samish; the Chilliwack "Experience Worship Project"; the Prairie Women's Retreat in Medicine Hat; the Latter Day Seekers Events with Calgary and Lethbridge; the Young Adult Retreat in the Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Alberta); the Ribstone 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party; the Arts Retreat at Samish Island; and, the Winnipeg Congregation had their first services in their new building. Wow! All that in four months! We are a very busy mission centre. Most of those events included guest ministry who travelled significant distances to share ministry in Canada West Mission Centre. ALL of them required local effort to plan, organize, and implement. THANK YOU to all of you who have organized or assisted with implementation of all of those events for the participation and benefit of the rest of us. We are a stronger Mission Centre and a stronger Community of Christ because of all your dedicated efforts.

We have not even got into the heart of our summer events yet! Camps, retreats, and reunions are all upcoming. Two "new" events to highlight for you to watch for: the "BC Friends and Family Weekend" at Samish; and, the first ever "Adult Reunion" at Hills of Peace. Planning for all events is well underway.

Now – how are YOU doing? Whatever activities may be happening in the Canada West Mission Centre, and whatever benefits we hope accrue from them for participants, I know they do not define or dictate how YOU are feeling, or what YOUR physical, emotional, or spiritual health might be at this moment. How is your FAMILY doing? I know that some of you have celebrated the arrival of babies in the last four months (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren!). New life! New energy! New joy! I know that some of you have suffered the loss of loved ones – friends and family members. Grief. Sadness. Mourning. Adjustments. Other life events may have happened for you that have affected you in different ways: changes in jobs, changes in housing, new learning, new uncertainties, new opportunities.

I have recently been reminded of several key phrases from Doctrine and Covenants, section 161, which speak to our personal life changes:

Do not neglect the smallest among you, for even the least of these are treasures in God's sight.

Be mindful of the changing of life's seasons, of the passage from the springtime of childhood and youth to the winter years of life.

Be tender and caring.

Be a joyful people. Laugh and play and sing, embodying the hope and freedom of the gospel.

I commend the entirety of Section 161 to you for reading, for contemplation, for meditation, and for a spiritual uplift.

May God bless you in the activities of the months ahead.



Left: Ribstone's 110th Birthday group photo



Steve Thompson  
Canada West  
Mission Centre President

## MISSION CONFERENCE 2018 REGINA

6pm Friday August 31st to Sunday evening September 2nd.

Join us for this rare opportunity to spend a weekend with our church president Steve Veazey. Registration will soon be open on our CampSite program. We have a group rate at the Ramada Plaza use code CGC0C4 email [regina@saskramada.com](mailto:regina@saskramada.com) or call 306-569-1444.

**Pastors** please make plans to vote for your Mission Conference delegates by the end of July.

**Non-residents** if you would like to attend as a delegate and be able to vote, please contact Debra Donohue, [debra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:debra@communityofchrist.ca) These will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.



Peace is Possible

Canada West Mission Conference

## WORLD CONFERENCE 2019

Saturday April 6th to Saturday April 13th

It's time to start making plans to attend World Conference 2019. This coming year we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Temple!

Would you like to be a delegate at World Conference 2019? If so, please submit your name and email address to [debra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:debra@communityofchrist.ca) or call 1-877-411-2632 extension 4.

We are allotted 33 delegates at World Conference 2019.



## LISA NEUDORF - WEEKEND OF WORLD RELIGIONS

I was recently in Calgary to participate in a Weekend of World Religions presented by Brian Carwana of the Encounter World Religions Centre in Toronto. The weekend events focus on four different religions and Brian leads classes which discuss the history, teachings and practices of those faiths followed by a visit to the house of worship for the specific religions. Over the last few years, Canada West Mission attendees have studied Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism, Mormonism, Daoism and Native Spirituality to name a few.

I have appreciated the opportunity to learn and understand different faiths. It would be fair to say my view of the world has been broadened and I have usually been able to find key elements from each faith which spoke to my heart.

I have found there are many similarities between Christianity and the principles followed by other faith traditions. I have appreciated the discipline practiced by Muslims, the generosity and sense of community practiced by Sikh's, the peaceful centering of oneself through Tai Chi led by Daoists and the stories passed down from generation to generation in Native Spirituality. I have sensed God's presence during each of these visits and have realized each faith tradition believes in God or a higher power whether it is God (Christianity), Allah (Islam), YHWH *Yahweh* (Judaism), or one of the numerous ways Sikh's describe God.

CWM has been providing Weekend of World Religions in Vancouver and Calgary for the past few years. The EWR Centre also provides a Discovery Week annually in July which explores Buddhism, Christianity, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native, Rasta, Sikhism, Wicca and Zoroastrianism. If any of these faiths sound intriguing to you, I encourage you to attend one of the next events when offered by CWM. <http://www.worldreligions.ca/>



Lisa Neudorf

Camping and Retreat Specialist

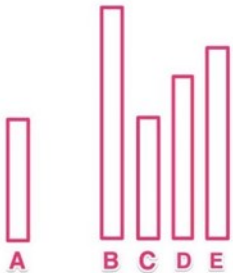
[lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca)



# PEACE AND JUSTICE - ROD DOWNING

## Peace / Justice: The Subtle, Pervasive Effects of Bias

Bias is a natural part of being human given four aspects that pull on our energy: the need to act fast, too much information, not enough meaning, and deciding what we should remember. Biases have become mental short-cuts. Because bias has always been around we have some ability to detect it. But today we now have a much more refined sense of this phenomenon so it is worth a second look, given how drastically it can affect peace / justice.



Credit: Drake Baer/BI

Look at the diagram – which line (B, C, D, E) is the same length as Line A? Did you know that if you created an experiment and got several fake subjects (who were really working with you) plus a real subject, and started the session by having all the fake subjects say that D is the same length as A, that the real subject will agree (at least once) with this objectively false answer a shocking three-quarters of the time?

**Conformity Bias** is a natural outcome of being human – we want to belong, and deeper, from an evolutionary standpoint, we have needed to belong in order to survive. But that same positive attribute, like all others, also has a downside – we can be unduly swayed. It is not simply a cute mental game – in this case it is a key part of what allows for everything from people falling into human trafficking, to racism, to radicalization.

We are called to see people as God does and to be leaven in the cause of shalom for all. That call is hampered and distorted by our biases. Fortunately, step one in reducing their effect is deliberately to examine them. This can reduce their grip and thus help unbridle the effect of God’s Good Spirit.

Wikipedia lists 175 biases (which made me want to add one more “Wikipedia Suspicion”; my point is this topic needs more refining but unquestionably there are more than I ever imagined and is why for years I call my efforts “Bumbling” – I seem to mess up in so many ways). Here are a few biases, perhaps more relevant in a world noted in a previous article, being pulled by “populism”.

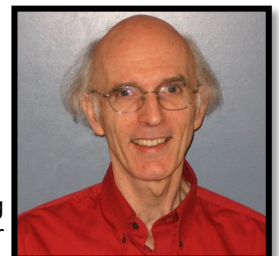
**Bias blind spot:** Failing to recognize your cognitive biases is a bias in itself. Princeton psychologist Emily Pronin has found that “individuals see the existence . . . of biases much more in others than in themselves.” Sound like a scripture about a speck in someone’s eye and a plank in one’s own?

**Confirmation Bias:** We tend to give priority to new information that confirms our existing stance. Together with the next two, it is partly what keeps us siloed and thus in conflict rather than dialogue.

**Bandwagon Effect:** Adopting a belief increases based on the number of people who hold that belief. A form of groupthink.

**Choice-supportive bias:** When you choose something, you tend to feel positive about it, even if the choice has flaws. We think that our dog is awesome - even if it bites people every once in a while. Or, once we have chosen our group, we are less likely to see its flaws.

These subtle, pervasive little building blocks called biases, can end up building terribly harmful life-denigrating dynamics. Let us continually be open to God’s Spirit of Goodness which accepts us as we are, but calls forth our better selves, all for the sake of life-flourishing for all!



Rod Downing  
Peace and Justice Minister

On Easter Sunday, almost all our congregation travelled elsewhere to be with their families. Some travelled to Saskatoon for the Easter service. Some were in Ontario and some in British Columbia. Consequently, our Easter potluck celebration was not until the following weekend. The potluck was held at the home of Margaret Ferguson even though some members were still unable to attend. Left to right are Ina Buck, Lois Aspvik, Lois Simpson, Marlene Mitchell, Mike Mitchell.

Our congregation remains busy in the community. Ina volunteers at the Friendship Center. Marlene does Meals on Wheels. Marlene, Lois Simpson, Lois Aspvik and Margaret continue to meet two days a week to make quilts for the Homeless Shelter and the Women’s Shelter. So far this year we have made and delivered 121 quilts. Our gatherings are full of fun and fellowship.

Margaret Ferguson , Church Historian, PA Congregation

## PRINCE ALBERT

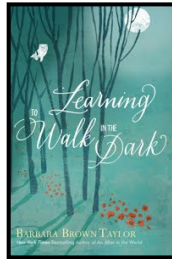




# Nurturing Spirit Retreat: Learning to Walk in the Dark

*"I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again...I need darkness as much as I need light."*

Barbara Brown Taylor



"Come to the dark side!" are words that strike fear into the heart of any loyal Star Wars fan. We close our eyes in fear of what Luke will do, and perhaps discover there are things to be learned in the dark that could not be learned in the light.

That's exactly what we did at our Nurturing Spirit retreat this year. We took a walk on the dark side and unmasked Darth Vader. Based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark", we took time to explore the meaning of darkness in our lives and learned spiritual practices that help us "feel" our way into the shadowy places in our minds and bodies.

Darkness comes in many forms, whether physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual.

We used three key phrases to help guide us during the week-end: "Cultivate Curiosity" about our experience, "Trust in Spirit's Wisdom Within", and "Stay in the Moment". Through the practices of centering prayer and meditation, we



learned how to connect with the "Spirit breathing in us". We learned how to slow down to dip beneath the surface of our busy distracted minds, shining the "light sabre" of our awareness into thoughts and feelings hidden in the shadows. We practiced gentle movement and yoga to relax and connect to our bodies in a kind and compassionate way. We shared time in "Listening to the Soul" groups, sharing about our experience of darkness: our sadness, our fears, our joy, our pain. Giving voice to the things that live in our shadow self, somehow allows a crack of light in to be healed.

We also had our own team of eight Jedi Knights (our Youth Spirit Kitchen) who were fearlessly led by Princess Lana to provide healthy delicious food all weekend to the army of spiritual seekers courageously learning to walk in the dark. Like all good Jedi's, they were in fine form, learning new skills and life lessons in the kitchen of life. The food they prepared and served, definitely raised the "Life Force" in all of us.

Saturday night (after a candle lit dinner) we literally took a walk in the "almost dark" under the moonlit sky of Samish Island. We began in the CFC together to receive instructions, then went outside, and allowed ourselves to learn the lessons inherent in physical darkness. Some people stayed behind where Shannon guided the group gently into darkness, slowly turning off the inside lamps one by one as darkness descended.

Sunday morning, we had a beautiful worship service as we slowly began to emerge from our journey from shadow back into the light. We started with all the lamps off, and most fittingly, our trusty young Jedi Knights brought the light back, turning the lamps and candles on, one by one as we all emerged from the darkness into the



dawning of a new day. May the Force be with you.

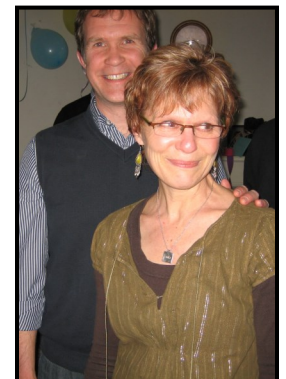
Just in case you missed this retreat (and wanted to train as a Jedi Knight), Canada West Mission is offering another



Nurturing Spirit Retreat with the same theme of "Learning to Walk in the Dark".

Hills of Peace Campground in Alberta, August 10 – 12. More information (and registration) will be available soon.

Also, please note our new dates for the Nurturing Silence Retreat October 26 – 28.



Vickie MacArthur



# Youth Spirit Kitchen and Retreat

Just before 8:30 AM Saturday morning the bell rang for breakfast. As the retreat participants stepped up to take their first meal of the day I was taken with sudden realization there was no place for me to help on the serving line. Nine youth and two youth mentors had it well in hand! David and I need only stand back and watch the Youth Spirit Kitchen engage in purpose. This year our scripture focus came from Matthew 4:1-11 where Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. Within these verses "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" We focused on listening to each other, listening to the needs of the group we were serving, talking about faith, and

learning how to work through challenges with food as a team.

I was deeply impressed and moved by the adventurous spirit of this group. Some people came into the kitchen never having peeled a carrot, or dipped strawberries in chocolate. Certainly, none of us had cooked Vegetarian Shepherd's pie before but I just loved the curiosity and openness to try: Not to mention to see things through so that all 61 of us were fed for a whole week end! This group said YES to new challenges with big smiles, open hearts and a real commitment to hard work. We took time out to venture into the wilderness at

Samish and pay attention to the local food and wildlife. A highlight was finding a small skull under a tree and figuring out what it was although there may be some debate. We collected pine needles and made medicine tea, and, Kit made a huge pot of Chai (back by popular demand from last year). The youth also took the leadership in building a dark room for the adult participants to experience "dark meditative eating".

I would like to thank the other retreat participants for honoring the spirit of the youth kitchen by doing dishes and keeping tasks manageable. This was a huge gift. And we especially appreciated the help and support of new kitchen manager Shawna Custer. As a group we are excited that group grew since last year and we are now wondering about how to action new activities together between retreats (like taking on some of the ideas envisioned in the Are You an Eagle in a Hen House session with Debra or doing a Fundraiser for Samish).

Contact [lanacullis@gmail.com](mailto:lanacullis@gmail.com) or Debra Donohue to learn more or to give us your email for contact. Every youth is welcome whether you attended NSR or not!

Lana Cullis



**The tale of the eagle in a hen house** tells the story of how an eagle egg, accidentally placed in a hen's nest see's the eagle grow up not fulfilling his potential, experiencing only the limitations of the life of a chicken. The YouTube video we watched has a 'new year's resolution' focus, but it was perfect for this class. We wanted the youth to realize that nothing should keep them from pursuing ANYTHING in this world. After some workshopping and lots of conversation, our Youth Spirit group came up with the following dreams for Samish Island.

Move the campground garden closer to Dining Hall – install a sprinkler system so it is taken care of between camps. Paintball field, dirt jump park for bikes, gymnastic equipment and weight room. Goats for lawn control - need electric collars, rent goats for the summer. Put in a fence and lights for the sport court, better metal shop/work shop in basement, floating dock for the lake (build it in the new shop), obstacle course in the forest, with balance beams, jumping obstacles, rope webbing, and a tight rope. Put in a permanent dock at the lake. Better wifi, inner tubes, banana boat, spa room, and clean up the path to the Indian burial ground.

While some of these may not seem likely to be implemented, many are very attainable, and I urge you to do what you can to help make these dreams come true. Would you like to see the [YouTube video](#) we watched?  
Debra Donohue



Greetings –

While spring has been a little slow-moving this year, the Calgary congregation certainly hasn't. We've just come off a busy spring season filled with activities, worship opportunities, and shared meals.

Our 'Young at Heart' group continues to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons at the Lions Village in Calgary. There, members and residents from the Lions Village complex shared snacks, coffee, and engage in a scheduled discussion, presentation, or activity. Past presentations and topics have included: *Life Stories, Ancestry, Forgiveness, Meal Planning and Nutrition*, and more. Attendance averages roughly 20-25 each week – and attendees show strong support for the continuation of this wonderful outreach tool. Oftentimes, we see visitors on Sunday mornings from this very group – usually 3-5! Special thanks to Shirley Smith for championing this fantastic program – it continues to be such a big success!

### February

CWM's first eConference was very well received by the Calgary congregation. Despite terrible weather, all our delegates showed up and fully embraced the new technology. Very proud of our group for that – lots of newness, but such a strong willingness to learn and grow.

The Generation Now youth program hosted a fantastic activity at the Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller with roughly 35 in attendance – many of whom were not associated with the Calgary congregation and came by invitation from other enthusiastic Community of Christ families. Youth and their families enjoyed a sleepover with the dinosaurs and a wonderful program put on by the staff there. Generation Now continues to be a strong success, as we seek new, innovative ways of engaging with youth and young families.

Several young adults in the Calgary area enjoyed a crash-course in curling! We joined up at a curling rink and, thanks to Naomi Moor's direction and patience, had a blast learning and playing together!

### April

The Calgary congregation hosted a week-long set of activities with special guest ministry from Apostle Robin

## CALGARY - PARKER JOHNSON



Linkhart and Seventy John Hamer. The week included: "Sacred Space" Workshop, a games night, a lecture by John Hamer entitled, "Re-examining Priesthood in the Restoration," a Young Adult hike, "Online Ministry" Workshop, a special intergenerational Sunday service, and lots of great strategy meetings with the local leadership team on ways in



which to engage the Latter-day Seeker community across Southern Alberta. During this trip, we also worked closely with the Lethbridge pastorate and CWM leadership to host a lecture in Lethbridge. Throughout the week of activities, we saw a total attendance of more than 150 people and made valuable connections. [Check out this video overview of our fabulous week](#)

For the second year in a row, Calgary was host to an exciting Encounter World Religions Weekend. With 14 in attendance, we had a great small

group that really fostered good discussion during the lectures and site visits. This year, we focused on Judaism, Mormonism (Utah), Daoism, and Native Spirituality. Once again, Brian Carwana from the Encounter World Religions Centre did an incredible job of providing the group with a strong understanding and appreciation of each faith tradition.

In addition, members of the congregation participated in Mission Centre activities ranging from the CWM Winter Youth Retreat held in Saskatoon to a Young Adult Retreat held near Medicine Hat, AB. Both events were strongly represented by members of the Calgary congregation.

The CWM Winter Youth Retreat was a great success thanks to Lisa Neudorf and Guest Minister Jenny Jackson (Kansas City, MO, USA). The theme this year was *Perspective*, and youth and staff shared in many activities and discussions all geared towards broadening our understandings of the world. Highlights included an Amazing Race activity – which had us split into teams and driving all over the city, making pitstops at areas of interest or even in members' homes to complete challenges – as well as a fun Escape Room experience. In total, the Calgary congregation sent four young adults to assist with staffing this event. These four, plus Jenny Jackson, piled into a minivan and road-tripped together to Saskatoon from Calgary, sharing stories,



playing car games, singing songs, and having an all-around blast spending time together. This was Jenny's second time in Canada West Mission, having provided guest ministry at CWM Youth Camp (HOP) last summer. She received a warm welcome by staff and campers alike.

The CWM Young Adult Retreat was a blast! Jahnelle Geddes (Calgary) and Aymie Neudorf (Regina) collaborated and co-directed this event from start-to-finish, including securing the location, planning meals, and activities. Ten



young adults stayed at YMCA Camp Elkwater just south of Medicine Hat, AB, and enjoyed a weekend that was lean on structure, technology, and responsibilities, and heavy on community-building. A YMCA staffer was brought in to facilitate team-building activities, including archery, lawn games, and challenges. Due to the intentional unstructured nature of the event, all attendees helped out with cooking, cleaning, and other tasks...and it worked out beautifully! We had a blast resurrecting this event, and there are already plans underway for next year!

As we continue towards our summer camping season, I look forward to

strengthening the relationships formed at all of these meaningful events. There is a strong interest in what Community of Christ has to offer, and I sense a certain level of excitement I haven't felt in some time. May we always remember just how special this community is, and all that we have to offer a world in need.

Grace and peace.

Parker Johnson  
Church Mission &  
Young Adult  
Ministries Specialist



## WINNIPEG

Back in June of 2017 the members of the Winnipeg Church voted to sell the church building where our members had been meeting since the 1960s. The reason was, it was becoming more difficult for many of the members to climb the stairs to the main sanctuary area and downstairs to the washrooms and kitchen areas. After discussion and a vote, we put the place up for sale and the very next day it was bought!

Possession was to take place by August 1<sup>st</sup> which suddenly left us without a place to worship. So, we had a meeting to decide what to purchase as our new Church building. What we needed was a place that was on all one level.



We found such a place at 667-Watt Street a few blocks from the old building. It is a small building that was used to house Autopac, the Provincial Insurance Company. It already had an alarm system and is located on a main Bus route with a small parking lot. These past few months we have been in the process of satisfying all the City rules and steps one must do to make the place a Church. The major stumbling block has been converting the washroom for handicap use and the entrance accessible to the handicapped, a city requirement. Then having the place pass inspection by electrical, civil, and mechanical engineers. We are now in the final stages before we can occupy the building, hopefully this month. It has been a real learning experience with all its frustrations and expenses.

Stan Freer  
Winnipeg Pastor





# Something New, Old Favourites, and a Fresh Update

Spring is the time of year when it just feels right to try something new. I really want to try axe throwing and zip lining. What are you trying that's new and maybe a little exciting right now? In BC, we're offering you some choices.

**Our first BC Friends and Family Weekend, June 1-3 at Samish Island,** is an opportunity for you to introduce your non-churched friends to the beauty of our west coast campground, meet our great people, and connect in a setting without classes or religious context. We will hold a contemporary worship service on the Sunday morning, but anything else religious will come from questions or discussions prompted by our guests. The intention is to provide an easy introduction to Community of Christ and



**Chilliwack Strawberry Social**  
**Sunday June 10th**  
**3-5pm**

The Maybelles  
 Chilliwack Harmony Chorus

Join us for an afternoon of great music and delicious dessert!

Community of Christ  
 9845 Carleton St. N. Chilliwack  
 chilliwackcommunityofchrist@gmail.com  
 604-792-7811

run event that was supported by a lot of our friends south of the border, and very successful. Over the years, Fine Arts evolved as many retreats do, and new camp directors took over. This year the Arts Retreat came home to Vancouver with directors Chris Phelps and Dan Beer in charge. Rather than have scheduled classes, those who were interested in teaching their craft were encouraged to bring their instruments, yoga mats, scripts, paint, clay or knowledge, and share with others in an informal setting.

We're looking for a director for the 2019 Arts Retreat and hopefully a commitment of a few years. Could it be you? If you're interested and want more information, contact Chris Phelps at [chris-inlanguley@gmail.com](mailto:chris-inlanguley@gmail.com). For more on the



**BC Friends and Family Weekend**  
**June 1-3, 2018 Samish Island**

Friday 7 pm - Board Games for every age  
 Saturday - Games, Sports, Service Project and more!  
 Sunday - Contemporary Worship

RSVP to Debra  
[debra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:debra@communityofchrist.ca)  
 1-877-411-2632 ext 4

Online registration open soon  
 Registration fee is \$50 for adults and \$25 for children.  
 A free will offering will be taken during the weekend.

Community of Christ



its members. As we go to print, we already have 43 people registered, 11 who have NEVER been to Samish or Community of Christ.

When it comes to **old favourites**, the Chilliwack Strawberry Social and the Vancouver Neighbourhood Party are our go-to events. This year the Chilliwack Strawberry Social takes place June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. If you like music and strawberries, this is the place to be. We have two musical acts performing, The Maybelles, with our very own Alexis Beer from the Chilliwack congregation, and

The Chilliwack Harmony Chorus, a well-known Barbershop group of 12 - 20 people depending on the day. The Vancouver Neighbourhood Party on June 24<sup>th</sup> will feature The Maybelles as well. The barbecues will be fired up, Kit Bolger is going to do face



**Sunday June 24th 12:30-2:30pm**

Featuring musical sensations  
**The Maybelles**  
 Join us for an afternoon of music, food, games and fun.

**Neighbourhood Party**  
 everyone is welcome

Sunday June 24th from 12:30 - 2:30  
 for more information follow us on facebook or contact [debra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:debra@communityofchrist.ca)

3333 Kaslo Street  
 Vancouver  
 604-435-5344

Community of Christ

painting, we'll have games on the lawn and lots more.

I always welcome a **fresh update**. It tells me that the people in charge are listening to their audience and want to provide the best experience possible for them. This year, the Arts Retreat at Samish Island is the one getting the make-over. The Arts Retreat, or Fine Arts as it has been known in the past, has been taking place for about 30 years. Originally it was a Vancouver



Arts Retreat, see Chris and Dan's write up on the front page.

So, here is the question again. What are you trying that's new or maybe even a little exciting right now? Really, it only needs to be exciting to you. It's the simple act of trying something new that counts. Why not challenge yourself to try something new this spring? It could be attending one of our events, registering your family on our new camping registration platform, checking out the new website, a project with your congregation, or perhaps axe throwing *while* ziplining!

Debra Donohue  
 Congregational  
 Outreach Specialist





# EDMONTON



Peace, while visiting and playing outdoors, he set to work.

Robert built 4 picnic tables and 3 benches, perfectly sized for young children. While built lower to the ground, this colourful and comfortable furniture is sturdy enough to hold Robert and his friends, or any adult who joins a child to read a book or share a snuggle.

Thank you, Robert. Campers and staff at the Hills of Peace Campground are grateful for your initiative and contributions toward the enhancement of our sacred spaces.

Family Reunion 2018 happens July 7-12. We are looking forward to seeing YOU there.

Cousins Annabelle and Easton relax with Robert on some child friendly furniture that Robert built for young campers at the Hills of Peace.

Robert Noseworthy, from Edmonton Community of Christ, is the talented wood worker and carpenter who built and installed the Bluebird, Wren, and Tree Swallow houses that adorn the

fence posts bordering the Hills of Peace.

These safe nesting places protect the birds from the elements and predators and encourage them to nest at the Hills of Peace.

When Robert saw that there were no child sized tables and benches for young campers to use at Hills of



# YESS FUN WALK

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fun Walk in support of Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS) was held on May 28, 2017. 32 walkers and rollers raised \$6,272.00, generously surpassing our goal of \$5,000. In 2 years, \$10,587 has been raised in support of YESS. Following our walk, we participated in a short worship service and watched a You Tube video entitled "Michelle's Story". Michelle's story chronicles her life journey, beginning the day Edmonton City Police transported the homeless Edmonton teen to Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS). Here, Michelle found the acceptance, support and stability that enabled her to become a loving mother and happily married law student in Victoria, B.C. You can watch Michelle's Story on You Tube by going to "YESS Michelle's Story You Tube". Her story will make you a believer!

Our Fun Walk Sunday Morning Service culminated with the enjoyment of a delicious Brunch prepared and served by Kay and Carl Lindemann; following which, we should have gone for another walk!! We resisted the urge and enjoyed a good visit with our guests from YESS instead!

Are we doing this again? YESS!

Edmonton Community of Christ, **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Fun Walk May 27, 2018 at 9:15am**

In Support of Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS)

If you would like to support YESS financially, go to <https://yess.org>

Or join us on our walk, contact George at [gjhuybregts@shaw.ca](mailto:gjhuybregts@shaw.ca)



Deborah Greibrok



# What's up....in Ribstone?

In Ribstone we have been planning and preparing for our congregation's 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash, which was held April 21 and 22, but that hasn't stopped us from doing all sorts of wonderful things together. We worship, we learn, we play, we eat, we honor and celebrate, and we even dance (at least one of us does).

Each and every worship service is unique, and all are very special in their own way. I would like to tell you about every service, but I will restrain myself and tell you about four of our recent worship services. Becky Middleton came from Senlac to share with us her story about fixing a broken piece of pottery. Her words comparing the beauty and value of the broken piece to how much we are valued by God were so touching. The story is amazing, the sermon was fantastic, and the piece of pottery looks as though it was never in pieces. Ask Becky about it sometime.



Darlene planned and led a service about the Hound of Heaven entitled "Come Out with Your Hands Up". The service included some talented acting by a couple of our ladies and a dance performance by Emelia to the song "A Time to Be Found".



On Palm Sunday the children learned and acted out the story of the disciples getting the donkey for Jesus. This little drama then became the beginning of our "Palm Parade."



On Good Friday we shared in a service that took us through the last hours of Jesus' life on earth. Each portion of the service involved symbolic gestures by the whole congregation. It was BEAUTIFUL! After the service the men of the congregation provided



a delicious brunch for everyone.

For the Sunday school lesson on Family Day weekend the children and youth joined together in one class and created the Ribstone Church Family Tree. It was so moving for me to hear the children naming all the folks in the congregation that are special to them and that they think of as family. It came as no surprise that by the time they were done we had everyone's name on there.



Our EST (Eager Saints Troop, grades 1 to 6) and JAM (Jesus and Me, age 0 to grade 3) groups have been meeting monthly to learn about Jesus and to play and have fun. Pictured here are the JAM group after their "Lion and Lamb" meeting. The meeting included a tour of the church to count all of the lions and lambs they could find. The EST group recently had a "Minute to Win It" meeting. These chal-



lenges and games are always a big hit.

A birthday celebration, complete with cake (Yes, we do eat often in Ribstone!) and decorations was held in March to honor all of our Octogenarians (and older). These folks are such a vital part of Ribstone congregation. They are our mentors, encouragers, supporters, teachers, friends, and family.

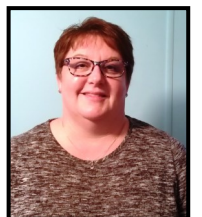


Once again Wayne Skinner along with Doug and Becky Middleton (Senlac) went to Honduras and took part in building projects with World Accord. We are so blessed to have wonderful people willing to take their skills and talents to other parts of the world and bless others.



I would like to express a big thank you to Leila for providing the pictures included here. Leila is diligent about getting pictures of all of our events and I really appreciate her willingness to send them to me, usually at the last minute.

Joanne Fraser





# NEW CAMPING REGISTRATION PROGRAM

This spring, Community of Christ Canada (CWM/CEM) is piloting a new way of doing camp and event registration! We've partnered with CampSite, a camping and events management platform, in order to provide you with a more modern online registration process for camps, retreats, and events capable of meeting the church's unique needs.

This new platform will allow you to create a user account which will securely store your information and allow you to register for events by simply logging in and selecting which event you want to attend.

In April, CWM launched this tool for a number of pre-selected programs in order to test and improve the end-user experience. After each program completes its use of CampSite for the year, we will review any issues that may have arisen and address them promptly prior to rolling out the tool for another program. This will ensure a smoother transition for all.

We are excited for this new tool for a number of reasons, but here are a few highlights:

## Integrated payment processing

CampSite accepts credit/debit card and automatic debit withdrawal (other forms of payment are also accepted) and can even provide payment plans for parents/adults interested in spreading out the burden of event costs.\*

*\*As CWM is on a donation-based registration, this feature will not be rolled out in CWM. You are encouraged to continue making donations in the manner in which you prefer. (Pre-Authorized Payments, CanadaHelps, cheque, cash, or otherwise)*

## Paperless process

CampSite takes the hassle of paper out of the equation. All forms have been converted to fillable PDF documents. This means, you will simply download the forms required for your event from CampSite, complete them on your device, and then upload them back to CampSite.

## Centralization and standardization

All programs from coast-to-coast will eventually transition to CampSite, ensuring continuity and standardization, as well as overall familiarity for membership and friends.

By partnering with a third-party, we are able to better serve you in a professional manner while guaranteeing the safety of your information without the need for additional staff.

Details are stored in secure databases, protecting the details and information of our most valuable asset – you!

Due to the nature of CWM's geography, CampSite is perfect for us. Details entered into the program are immediately synced and made available to others using the system. This ensures efficiency, reducing the number of hours required to plan and execute an event.

**Reporting** - Because of the centralized nature of this platform, using CampSite will allow us to produce more accurate, consistent reports.

**Security** - Every effort has been made to protect your information. This platform has been vetted and approved by World Church and Canadian Leadership.

You will be notified when an event near you is accepting registrations via CampSite. We hope you like this new platform!

To register follow these links [Youth](#) (for youth camps/retreats) or [Adult/Families](#)

Already using CampSite? Your feedback is important to us. Please contact Lisa Neudorf [lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca).

June 1-3	BC Friends and Family Weekend
June 8-12	Adult Reunion Hills of Peace
June 9-14	Adult Reunion Samish Island
July 1-6	CWM Youth Camp Hills of Peace
July 7-12	Family Camp Hills of Peace
July 14-21	Family Reunion Samish Island
July 14-18	Junior Camp Hills of Peace
July 19-20	International Youth Forum
July 21-28	Spectacular Graceland University
July 22-28	Kluane/Chimacum(12-14 yrs) Samish
August 5-11	Camp Kimtah (15-18 yrs) Samish
August 10-12	Nurturing Spirit Retreat Hills of Peace
August 12-16	Genesis/Mungai (8 -11 yrs) Samish
Aug 31-Sept 2	Canada West Mission Conference In Regina Saskatchewan
Sept 28-30	Men's Retreat Hills of Peace
Sept 28-30	Women's Retreat Chilliwack
October 26-28	Nurturing Silence Retreat Samish

*All dates are subject to change, please confirm by going to the website, [www.CommunityOfChrist.ca](http://www.CommunityOfChrist.ca) or The Weekly Wire. Please register early!*



# CHILLIWACK

The people in our congregation here in Chilliwack always seems to be active.

February 10<sup>th</sup>, we held a Dessert and Coffee fundraising evening for Samish Island Campground. A popular evening!

March 16-18, we held a Creative Worship workshop see Bonnie's article on page 2.

On Good Friday we provided a cooked breakfast and fellowship time before entering the chapel for an Inspirational service led by Pastor Shonnet Allen. Easter Sunday message was brought to us by Apostle Linda Booth via video.

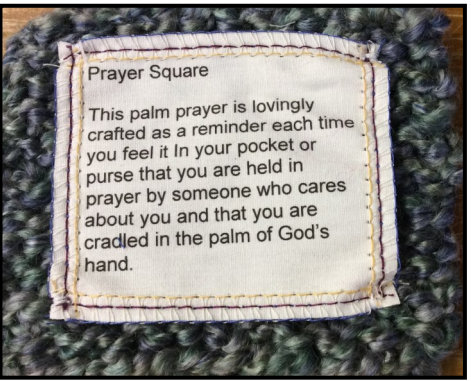
For those (all women!) interested in crafts we have a weekly Craft Night organized by Shonnet with alternating hosts. A lot of the people attending are non-members and they have become close as a group. Prayer Shawl knitting group meets weekly, again members and non-members are blessed by the prayer shawl knitting. The men meet at the bowling alley for weekly fellowship.

The last Friday evening of every month is Movie Night with a 'G' rated movie and lots of popcorn.

We have been blessed with Bob and Marvel Riley moving to Chilliwack and attending our congregation. Bob is Violet Armstrong's brother. Bob and Marvel are both active priesthood members and we have already felt the presence of their ministry.

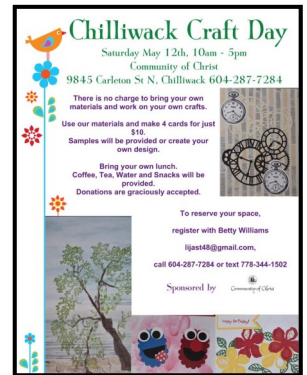
Gwyn Beer Senior became a great-grandma twice in January. Gavin and Sarah welcomed Thomas Robin Lee. Garrett and Courtney and big sister Ella welcomed James Arthur. Gwyn's daughter Kim is Grandma. Ron and Vilda Fetterly have been blessed by the safe arrival of two great-grandchildren. For one the parents are Sean and Ali and baby's name is Madison Laura Marie. The other parents are Beth and Alex and baby's name is Zuzu Mary Josephine. Their son, Mark is grandpa.

We have just finished 2 Saturdays of



We gave out approximately 100 Palm Prayers (above) at the two garage sales. These are knitted as an extension of our Prayer Shawl ministry.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Betty Williams will have planned and executed another successful Chilliwack Craft Day.



successful Garage Sales. A lot of work is put into these garage sales but after it is all over and we hear the total money raised it always seems worthwhile. This time we have raised over \$3,500.00. Half of this money goes to World Accord, a quarter to Chilliwack Supportive Housing and a quarter to Samish Island Camping Program. All are worthwhile causes.

Chilliwack will be hosting another Women's Retreat this fall September 28-30. We hope you'll join us!

Janine McCully



## Ribstone's 110th Birthday Bash!

During the presentation ceremony, Ribstone received plaques and scrolls from various individuals and groups. MP, Kevin Sorenson is in the photo below with Pastor Darleene Skinner. Canada West Mission President Steve Thompson presented Ribstone with a certificate. Karen Ell did classes with the children - they made homemade roll candles, and



and painted a lion and lamb which were fired in a kiln.

Joey Williams, Mission Centre President for the British Isles, Western Europe and Eurasia, also led a class with the children. Joey taught the adult/teen Sunday School class on Sunday morning and preached on Saturday. Joey also directed the choir, who sang three songs during the service on Sunday. Emelia Goheen sang a solo in one of them.



Mary Jacks, our previous Canadian Apostle, preached on Sunday and led a class on Saturday.



# REGINA

It has been a busy time between since Christmas. We have continued to try to hold a monthly community event (with varying degrees of success), but that just means we need to change our success criteria.

In January we held a movie night and unfortunately it was a typical January night in Saskatchewan so community attendance was limited by some ridiculous wind-chill although the congregation got together. We had prizes to hand out, which went to some very excited young members of our own congregation.

At the end of January we hosted the Rosemont Area Ecumenical Group's Celebration of Christian Unity on a Sunday. There are 4 churches and a participant from an area church that close and we gather for an afternoon service followed by a pot-luck supper. It is very nice to be part of such an inclusive group. We are the smallest, and the biggest church has hundreds of members so we are diverse.



On February 9<sup>th</sup> we held a Valentine's Day dance. This was first for the congregation and we nervously commented on what our forefathers (and foremothers) would have thought about dancing in church. After several furtive looks over our shoulders we focused dancing to the playlists from various phones and you tube videos (try explaining those concepts to our forefathers!).



We had a bunch of friends show up from the community as well as half a dozen family members from attendees. It was a lot of fun, although I don't remember my knees and feet hurting as much back in the good old days.

Our Sunday morning worship has picked up some energy as Tiffany teaches a half dozen kids at the back of the chapel while the service goes on. It makes a big difference to have an intergenerational vibe when we gather to celebrate.



In March we were hammered with snow which made for a somewhat tricky Cross Walk. It's just what it sounds like. We follow a cross through our neighborhood. At each church we stop for a short devotion. We start at St. James Anglican, move on to St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic, then Community of Christ, and wind up at Christ Lutheran for a large Good Friday service. Our Easter Sunday service

started with brunch, an Easter Egg hunt and then a short intergenerational devotion where the kids acted out the chapter in Luke about the resurrection. At 11 a.m. Cathie Bell was the speaker for our worship service which was blessed by the appearance of a number of members who had moved away and



were back visiting. Now that we are into April we can start to see pavement (a sure sign of spring).

Cathie is teaching a pre-baptismal class for two of our young girls, Selena and Jasmine, and – hot off the press – Jae Senga was our guest speaker on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

As the weather gets nicer we will revive our custom of handing out water and snacks to our neighbors from our parking lot on Wednesday night. It's a great way for us to get to meet our neighbors. Hope springs eternal!

God bless from the Regina Congregation.  
Dan Esch





Community of Christ  
Canada West Mission  
16490 84a Avenue  
Surrey, BC, V4N-3G8

stamp



Community of Christ

Address label

Need more information?

Check out our new website at  
[www.communityofchrist.ca](http://www.communityofchrist.ca)

Follow us on Facebook at  
Community of Christ Canada  
West Mission

Call us at 1-877-411-2632

***We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace.***

**Samish Island Family Reunion**  
July 14-21, 2018  
**'Breathe New Life'**



Guest ministers Dave and Carolyn Brock  
Community Campfire Tuesday  
World Famous Talent Show Thursday  
Swimming, Slip n' Slide, Sports  
and lots more!

REMEMBER  
RECLAIM  
EMBODY  
SHARE



To register go to  
[http://24.80.99.19/  
CoCRegistration/](http://24.80.99.19/CoCRegistration/)  
or email  
[samishbreunionre  
gister@gmail.com](mailto:samishbreunionre<br/>gister@gmail.com)  
for a copy of the  
form.

**Junior Camp 2018**  
**True Colours**  
"Find Your Happy Place"

Saturday, July 15 – 2:00 pm to  
Wednesday, July 18 – 11:30 am

**Hills of Peace Campground**  
Highway 600 near Capt Ayre Lake

For campers who have finished grades 2 through 6 (or reached age 8)


PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED by Friday, July 6, 2018

ONLINE REGISTRATION: <http://bit.ly/CWMYouthcamps>



For more information, contact Lisa Neudorf ([lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca) or 1-877-411-2632, ext 5)  
We rely on your generous donations to help assist with the cost of this camp. Canada West Mission Centre provides this event at no charge to ensure registration fees are not barriers to participation. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend. A charitable receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

**CWM Youth Camp 2018**



**Diversity Through the  
Decades**

WHO: Youth who have completed grades 6-12 (ages 12 to 18)  
WHEN: July 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm to July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm  
WHERE: Hills of Peace Campground Highway 600 Capt Ayre Lake, AB



**Pre-registration required by June 22, 2018**

Online Registration: <http://bit.ly/CWMYouthcamps>

**COST:** We rely on your generous donations to assist with the cost of this camp. Canada West Mission Centre provides this camp at no charge to ensure registration fees are not barriers to participation. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend. A charitable receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

Need more information? Please contact Lisa Neudorf: [lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca) or Toll Free 1-877-411-2632 ext 5

**Orbis Sports will be back this summer!**  
Don't miss out on archery tag, bubble soccer and LASER TAG



**A complete list of camping dates can be found on page 13.**

**Do you want to receive the Weekly Wire?  
Get our Canada West weekly announcements  
emailed directly to your inbox.**

**Contact Debra [debra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:debra@communityofchrist.ca)**

**Family Camp 2018**  
Hills of Peace July 7 - 12



Guest Ministers:  
**Apostle Art Smith**  
**David Lloyd**

**Pre-Registration Required by Friday, June 29**  
Online Registration: <http://bit.ly/CWMregup-familyevents>

Director: Lika Neudorf, 1-877-411-2632, ext 5 or [lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca)

