



News 'n' Views

MacNab Street Presbyterian Church Newsletter
905 529-6896—email: macnabsec@cogeco.ca



2012

Summer

2012

WELCOME REV. CATHY STEWART! Interim Moderator

Bearing the genes of MacDougalls, Coopers, Andersons and Stewarts, Cathy was born in Ontario but grew up in Winnipeg. Her father directed a wilderness canoeing camp on Lake of the Woods, so she spent the summers of her youth on an island, surrounded by rocks, trees and water. She learned how to manoeuvre a canoe through rocks, wind and rapid. "Canoe" became the fifth set of genes, though sometimes it has felt more like a coracle ride without paddle, than a canoe.

She studied English Literature and French Language at the University of Winnipeg, taught French for a few years, then did her theological studies at McCormick Seminary in Chicago (PC USA). She moved to Hamilton in 1988, was ordained and began serving at St Cuthbert's PC in 1990, where she remained until 2009. She has served as Moderator of the Presbytery (2003-4), counsellor in several Guidance Conferences (Ministry and Vocations), and most recently as Stated Supply at Heritage Green PC. She is working towards a Certificate in Conflict Management through Conrad Grebel College in Waterloo and has trained for Interim Ministry. For fun and relaxation she reads theology, does yoga, plays the violin (and tambourine), bikes around the city, and knits for her new grandson Felix.

Her first daughter Sarah was born in Chicago, her second, Miriam in St John's Newfoundland, and her son Peter in Hamilton.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW INTERIM MODERATOR

A time "in between" is never a very comfortable place. We human beings get uneasy with "not knowing." But we also know that any interim time can hold invaluable gifts, which can come no other way but through some pain. The Christian life is prone to periodic crises. "These are not necessarily signs that something has gone drastically wrong; rather they are the birth pangs that accompany the transition from a familiar pattern of life to a further stage." Babies don't choose to be born, and MacNab did not choose to enter into labor. But here we are.

I invite the congregation at MacNab to see if we can together enter into this birth-time with expectation and hope. Exactly what the newness it, we do not know, but we know that Christ will be walking alongside, before, behind and amongst us.

My main work as IM is behind the scenes: moderating Session meetings, arranging pulpit supply and making sure that pastoral care is looked after. But I will lead two worship services over the summer, and am offering a small group discussion in July.

I look forward to meeting you, as the opportunity arises.

In peace, (Rev)Cathy Stewart

FROM THE KIRK SESSION

Meeting of June 13, 2012

- * Rev. Cathy Stewart opened the meeting with an interesting exercise in team building, followed by prayer.
- * It was agreed that June 24th will be a "lay Sunday" with the Worship Service led by Elders David Milmine and Alex Abraham
- * It was agreed that the Congregational Life and Maintenance Committees will assume the responsibility for displaying the Seasonal Banners
- * It was agreed that Rev. Stewart will lead a group discussion on Tuesday mornings in July, based on the book "Don't forgive too soon: Extending the two hands that heal."
- * It was agreed that Rev. Stewart will be financially compensated for her time
- * It was agreed that the Session will continue to explore and initiate various conflict resolution options—the congregation to be informed soon as specific options have been selected

"People are like tea bags—you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

In the Christian life, we never stop growing and learning.

We are in this life-long "school of love" as perennial students.

We never graduate!

Here's the

CON ED for the Summer

By Rev. Cathy Stewart

When a minister leaves, anxiety in a congregation rises. When anxiety rises, we can lose track our usual good habits. How we speak with one another is especially important when tensions are higher than normal.

I remember the first time I learned the difference between "you" language and "I" language: the difference between "You are so messy!" and "When I find wet towels strewn on the bathroom floor, my heart sinks." It was a revelation. I had been going through life using "you" language with abandon. Try those two lines on a friend. See the reaction. The first way creates defensiveness; the second leaves a little more room for the "towel-dropper" to respond graciously, perhaps "Oh! I didn't know!" At our May Session meeting, we reviewed the Guidelines for respectful speaking, and they are condensed onto a card for the whole congregation. Use it as a bookmark. Post it on your fridge. Practise! It will make a difference amongst us.

**"DON'T FORGIVE TOO SOON:
Extending the two hands that heal"**

This delightful little book suggests that forgiveness is a process, like grief.

Join Rev. Stewart in a 5-part book discussion in the Parlour **the 5 Tuesdays in July:**

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

10:00am-11:30am including a social coffee time.

Books provided, but sign up by calling the church office ASAP (by June 24th if possible)

A tear off response is provided at the end of the newsletter and may be placed on the collection plate or returned by mail. Sign up sheets are also available in the Narthex.

Books can be picked up from the church office the week of June 26-28th



CHOIR NOTES

By Jack Brown

And so another choir "season" comes to a close as practices ceased May 21st and we prepared some anthems for June—while in the summer months you will hear solos, duets, etc. Is this what we call a "hiatus?" (related to "Hi-Jackor even "Hy-Jean") as the late British comic used to say "This is what "I metaphor".

As this goes to "Press", your choir under the expert leadership of President Gerald Smink runs a Strawberry Social at the church June 8th and this will include a sing-along, led by Gerald and some of the choristers. (I know-this should be "fruitful.")

We shall also get together June 23rd for our annual BBQ at the home of Marguerite Gilbert.

While we are indeed pleased with the excellent turnout of the choir, we miss Jim White (at home), Jessie Stoneman (at St. Joseph's Hospital and recently Margaret Dick whom we were glad to see out at church with Martin.

My wife Joyce, who often claims to be my "straight-man" was good enough to supply me with the following inserts:

1. Two novice sportsmen went hunting—as they were driving to the hunting lodge, they saw a sign -"Bear left" - so they went home.....
2. In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back...
3. A vulture boards an airplane carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess look at him and says "I'm sorry sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.

As we go our various vacation ways, your choir joins with you in looking for guidance and stability in our beloved MacNab in the coming year.

**FOOD DRIVE FOR
JULY & AUGUST**

Snack Foods" for the children of Inner City—dried fruit, granola bars, peanut butter & cracker, freezies
Thank you!



**SUMMER WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
10:00am**
(note time change)

ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

www.macnabpresbyterian.ca
BY Rick Rutherford for the Session

We implemented a new website on April 2nd this year and are keeping it up to date with the latest information that we have. As you may be able to see on the website, the background is a picture of the church on what appears to be a gloomy, foggy day such as one might encounter in the Highlands and appearing to be a "wee Scotch Mist". The picture was altered to make it look so, as it was really a clear day. It is our intention to change the background now and then for pictures of, and around, the church property and we hope you enjoy the selections made.

Check out our new website and browse around @www.macnabpresbyterian.ca

**CANADIAN COLUMBIAN
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

By Joan Greer

Some time ago I did a story for News & Views about Guatemalan Leocadio Juracan who spoke at the Sky dragon in downtown Hamilton,. He is an ardent advocate for a group of indigenous peasants who have struggled for 28 years to recover their own land that was taken from them by wealthy landowners. In Guatemala 2% of the population own 70% of the choice arable land. In the meantime, Columbia indigenous peoples continue to suffer as a result of displacement from their resource-rich land.

Displacement is not being gently chased off—it is done by intimidation, harassment and pure terror.

At least 34 indigenous nations are facing the risk of physical extermination according to Columbia's Constitutional Court. May of the mining companies are Canadian, working there with support from our own government. On May 16 our government was to produce a report analyzing the human rights impact of the Canadian Columbian Free Trade Agreement. Instead, the report won't be ready until 2013. Before the CCFTA was signed by many environmental and human rights groups implored the government not to ratify the agreement. It is more that 500 years since Christopher Columbus discovered this continent and we

- Sun July 1 Rev. John Duff
- Sun July 8 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun July 15 Rev. Nancy Koysis
- Sun July 22 TBA
- Sun July 29 Rev. Nancy Koysis
- Sun Aug 5 Rev. John Duff
- Sun Aug 12 TBA
- Sun Aug 19 TBA
- Sun Aug 26 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun Sept 2 Rev. Harry McWilliams

FINANCIAL INFORMATION-May 2012

	Year to Date 2011	Year to Date 2012	Budget
Weekly offerings:	\$59,510	\$57,833	\$55,417
Expenses	\$142,372	\$124,468	\$119,706
Transferred from Trust Accounts			
To meet shortfall:	\$70,000	\$40,000	\$42,083
Presbyterians Sharing	\$6,000		22,000

**FRIENDLY CIRCLE
RESUMES
MONTHLY
PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 18TH**
Pot Luck lunch
Please bring a salad



"DON'T FORGIVE TOO SOON: Extending the two hands that heal!"
JULY 3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH & 31ST-10:00am-11:30am

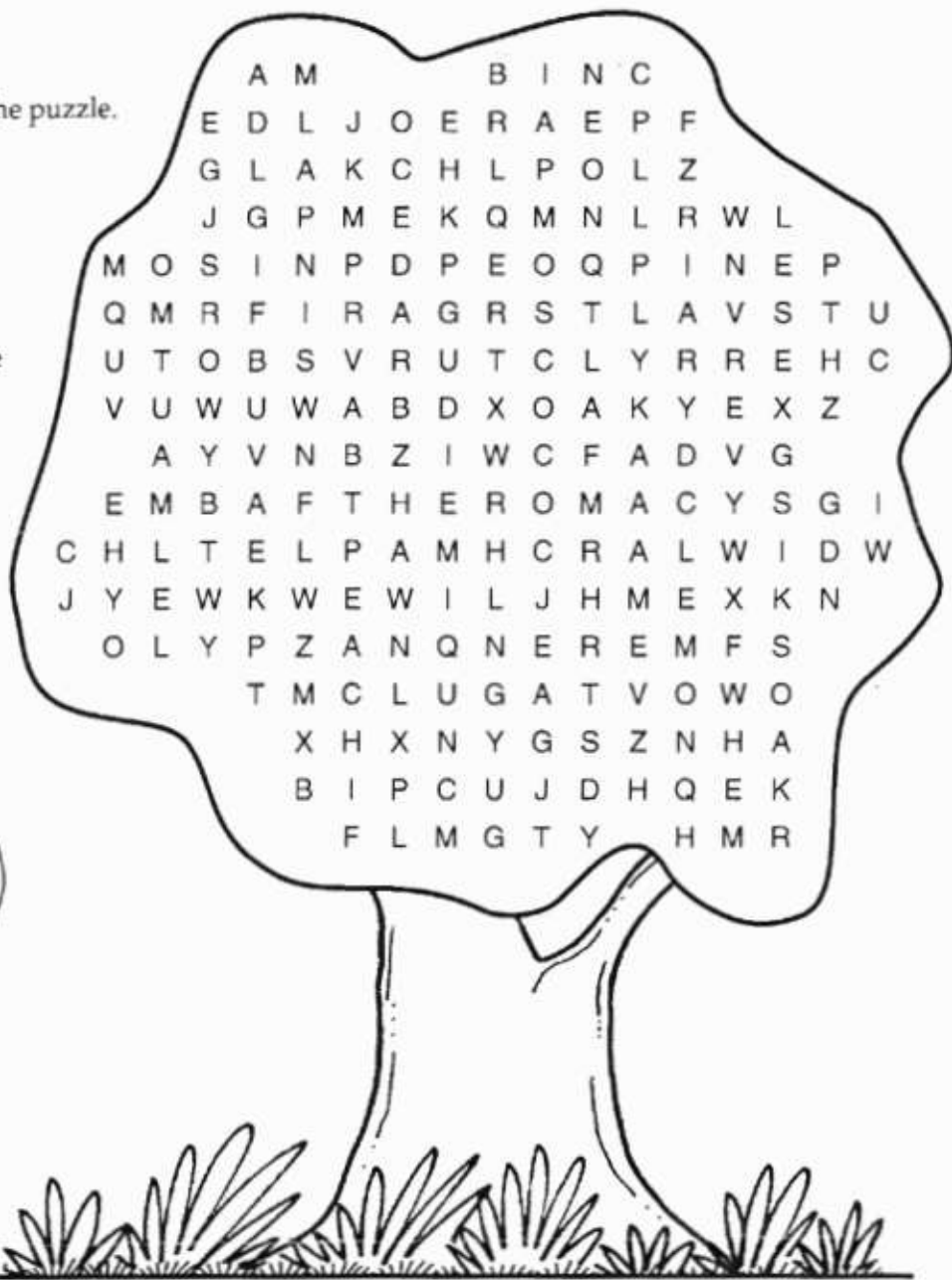
Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Word Find

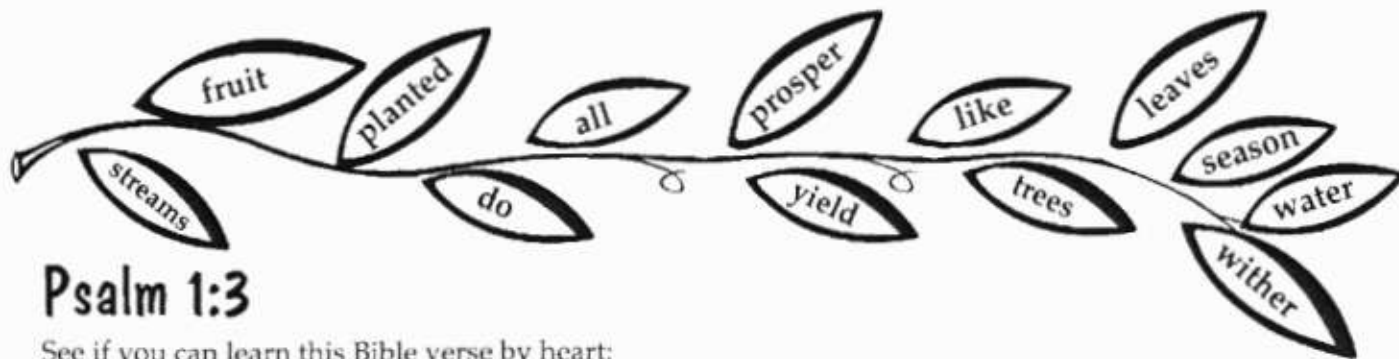
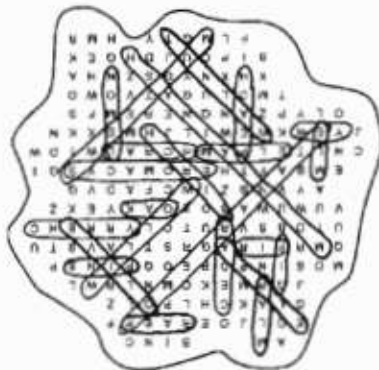
Find the names of these trees in the puzzle.

- Apple
- Birch
- Cedar
- Cherry
- Elm
- Fig
- Fir
- Larch
- Lemon
- Maple
- Mountain ash
- Oak

- Olive
- Palm
- Peach
- Pear
- Pine
- Pomegranate
- Sweet gum
- Sycamore
- Walnut
- Willow
- Yew



Answer:



Psalm 1:3

See if you can learn this Bible verse by heart:

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Making for Peace

I will speak for myself. I will try not to represent others.

I will speak directly to the person involved (with a third party if necessary).

I will speak about myself, using "I" statements.

I will be specific: **who, what, where, when**, avoiding generalizations.

I will identify an alternative: "*I would prefer...*"

I want to be the difference between: "*You are always late! It is inconsiderate!*" and "*When you arrive late, I start to get anxious because I have a busy day today.*"