



News 'n' Views

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

2012

SEPTEMBER

2012

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Greetings!

Session did not meet over the summer but I was busy on their behalf (and with the two clerks) finalizing the contract with our consultants (see Session Report—page 2) I enjoyed getting to know some from MacNab on the two Sundays I was able to be with you, and in the discussion group. I was able to do a little pastoral and hospital visiting. I led a graveside service for Barbara Woodhall with family members gathered from parts of North America.

The June newsletter showed 3 TBA in our preaching schedule. Two of those were filled by Doug Wallace (Thank you, Doug!) and for the last one, I eventually decided to try something new: Bill Wright read a sermon published by a renowned North American preacher (Barbara Brown Taylor). Thank you to the elders who assisted with the services over the summer: David Milmine, Kevin Russell, John Shields, Bill Wright, Irene Duffey, Alex Abraham. This was a new experience for them and the congregation!

I am grateful to the people who have covered emergency pastoral care of the congregation, allowing me to help my daughter in New Jersey move in June, get away to a cottage for a few days in July, out to Vancouver to visit family for a week in August, and I will drive my son to Halifax for school in September.

Thank you to John Duff, Bob Docherty, Carol Wood and Bob Geddes.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Roy Dafoe who died at the end of July, after a lengthy illness.

Bob Docherty led a service at the funeral home in Burlington.

Our prayers are with Jim White in McNally House Hospice in Grimsby, Shelagh Ross in Juravinski Hospital, Jessie Stoneman in St. Joseph's Hospital and Elsie Drover in St. Joseph's Villa Rehab and Jean Currie recovering from a broken shoulder at the cottage.



To Anne Mannethu and John Loughheed who will marry at MacNab Street on September 15th

"DON'T FORGIVE TOO SOON"

On 5 hot Tuesdays in July, a group of about 15 people gathered at MacNab to discuss and learn from the book *Don't Forgive too Soon*. In all 22 people received copies of the book. We sat in a circle, sometimes talking a whole group, sometimes in pairs or groups of three.

At the end of the five weeks people said that they had become more aware of how they can handle their hurts and anger, but even more important, they had come to see that they are not alone in their struggles with forgiving: We have always been told that we are not alone, but now we know it." One thing that people found most surprising was an interpretation of "turn the other cheek" based on the writings of New Testament scholar Walter Wink. If you are curious, ask someone who was there. The premise of the book is that forgiveness is a process, like grief, and we go through states of denial, anger, and depression on our way to acceptance, learning from each stage as we go.

A very shortened presentation of the book will be given at the Friendly Circle gathering Tuesday, September 18th.

NAVIGATING THE FOG

Some have been asking: "Have we formed a Search committee yet?"

The short answer is : no.

A longer answer: "Session needs to do some work first." (see Session Report) An even longer answer: this interim time may feel like we are in a fog: we can't see what the future holds. We don't know where we are heading or where we will end up.

But fog can be a beautiful thing. Here are some words from a book titled *Mystical Hope* by Cynthia Bourgeault:

"On a bright, sunny day you can set your course on a landfall five miles away from you and sail right to it. But in the fog, you make your way by paying close attention to all the things immediately around you:

The deep roll of the sea swells as you enter open ocean, the pungent scent of spruce approach the land. You find your way by being sensitively connected to exactly where you are, by letting "here" reach out and lead you. You will not learn that in the navigation course...but it is part of the local knowledge that all fishermen and natives use to steer by...You can find your home by feel."

Session, and the congregation too, are in a process of paying attention to where we are: letting the fog teach us.

We trust that we are being led by Christ, who promises never to leave us orphaned.

We may be uncomfortable, but we are not orphaned!!!

SESSION REPORT

Events of the last few years have had an impact on Session's ability to work as a group and offer effective spiritual leadership to the congregation. We decided we needed some outside assistance, and unanimously agreed to engage two consultants from ARC Ministries (Associates Resourcing the Church) based in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Keith Regehr and Kathryn Smith have been meeting with members of Session, as individuals and in small groups. They may also meet with former members of Session, former ministers and Interim Moderators. They will write a report on what they hear, what patterns they observe, and recommendations on what might assist us. This report will be presented to Session in early October. Session will then decide the next steps.

If you have any questions, please speak either to Kevin Russell, Clerk of Session, or Alex Abraham, Associate Clerk, or Rev. Cathy Stewart, Interim Moderator

For further information about ARC, see their website www.arcministries.ca

NEXT SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, September 18th—7:00pm—(note change of date)

CON ED FOR THE FALL

By Rev. Cathy Stewart

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!

On 4 Sundays in September (9, 16, 23, 30) something called "Word through the week" will be included with the bulletin. There will be 6 small suggestions of things to do at home, one for each day of the week Monday-Saturday, that related to the sermon preached on the Sunday. These are of course optional, but for those who try them, it will give the congregation something to talk about: what happened to you when you tried it? We will all have different experiences. We can learn from each other. For those unable to be there on a Sunday, maybe someone can bring you a copy, or if you have email it could be emailed (call the church office)

A group for those who would like to meet together, deepening their exploration of each week's theme, will be offered **3 Thursdays in September (13th, 20th, 27th and October 4th at 10:00am-11:30am.**

CHOIR NOTES

By Jack Brown



I know I tend to refer to the period of early September to end of May as our Choir "season"

But once again this is upon us, after the momentous events culminating in the conclusion of Rev. Kay's ministry on May 31st.

Your Choir Executive got together at the home of our enthusiastic President Gerald Smink August 14th to plan for the 2012/2013 Choir program and discuss progress made in the (nearly) past year.

For instance, our Strawberry Social June 8th, a first time event for us was warmly received by 75 people who contributed \$200, and we intend to repeat June 7, 2013.

Other successful events included the Irish Night (March 15) which raised \$1,000 and will likely repeat on the same day next year.

The popular Burns Night raised about \$2500 while the Christmas events \$2,000, contributing to the \$6,000 balance of the Choir account as reported by Treasurer Billy Wright. Operating expenses were around \$1,000.

These events more than fund our Choral scholarships set at \$3,000, although at this time we only have the two –Alto, Emily and Bass, Jozef but we

are on the lookout for another (Tenor, please)

Candlelight service is scheduled for December 16th and Chris would like to sign up a Brass Quartet for this. We are unsure about timing for the

Burns Night which ideally would be January 25, 2013, but might be on the 18th depending on availability of guests. More later.

Also, "Dickens of a Christmas" will be December 14th or 21st depending on assistance available –e.g. we need help for chief chef Marguerite Gilbert who does a fantastic job for your choir.

We shall have more current information for you, as we sort out details for this and other events.

There is a possibility that we will assist the Concert Choir November 11th at the War Plane Museum Service – more later!

Choir members under the weather are noted in the Interim Moderators report on page 1.

In closing, I should advise the choir that rehearsals start up again on Thursday, September 13th at 7:30pm, but keep an eye on the church bulletins in the meantime as Prez. Gerry would like to recap with all choir members (prior to practice) items of interest/information arising from the Executive meeting of Aug 14th.

See you soon.

**GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES
MATCHING FUNDS FOR SAHEL**

In the Sahel region of West Africa, drought, food shortages and malnutrition continue to affect more than 18 million people. The Government of Canada has taken an important step in bringing relief to those struggling with hunger, announcing that it will match all donations dollar for dollar. Donate before September 30th and your gifts will help multiply overall support for hungry people in the Sahel. Presbyterian World Service & Development is responding to the crisis in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. To date, over \$10 million dollars has been committed to projects in Niger, Burkina, Faso and Mali, reaching over 278,000 people. To learn more visit www.WeRespond.ca

**FACULTY ARTISTS CONCERT
A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE
AND DIVERSITY IN MUSIC**

Come hear Redeemer's Music Faculty in solo and Group Performances featuring voice, piano, violin, flute, guitar, organ and trumpet.

September 28—8:00pm

Watch the church bulletin for additional details

**FOOD DRIVE FOR
SEPTEMBER**

CANNED TUNA:
Very high in protein
and is something that
is looked for and especially appreciated.
We are looking to col-



lect 1000 tins for

FINANCIAL INFORMATION July 2012

	Year to Date 2011	Year to Date 2012	Budget
Weekly offerings:	\$77,602	\$76,600	\$77,583
Expenses	\$185,327	\$153,297	\$167,588
Transferred from Trust Accounts			
To meet shortfall:	\$70,000	\$40,000	\$58,917
Presbyterians Sharing		\$12,000	22,000

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



10:30am

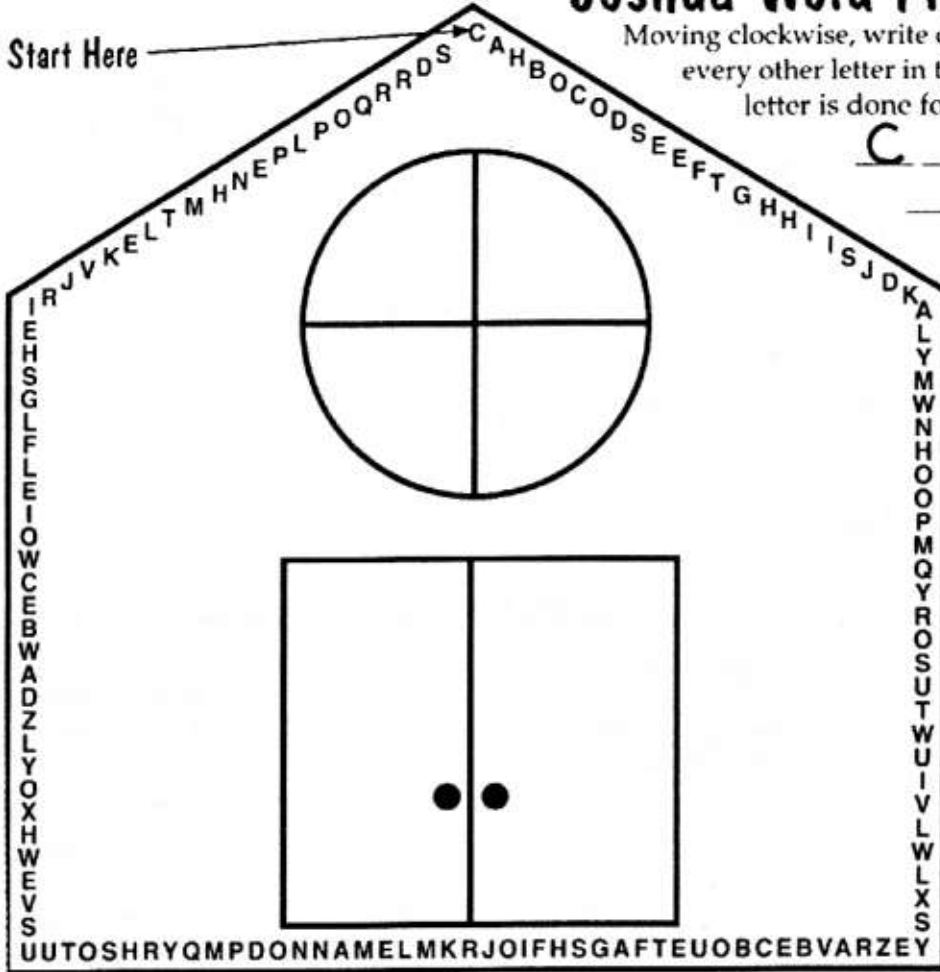
- Sun Sept 9 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun Sept 16 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun Sept 23 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun Sept 30 Rev. Cathy Stewart
- Sun Oct 7 Rev. Harry McWilliam;
World Wide Communi
- Sun Oct 14 Rev. Harry McWilliam;
Thanksgiving
- Sun Oct 21 Rev. Amin Mansour
& Mission & Service Comm
- Sun Oct 28 Rev. John Duff
- Sun Nov 4 Diana Butler-Ross
- Sun Nov 11 Rev. Bob Geddes
- Sun Nov 18 Rev. Bob Geddes



Joshua Word Find

Start Here

Moving clockwise, write down the first letter and then every other letter in the spaces provided. The first letter is done for you.



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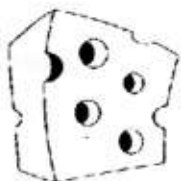
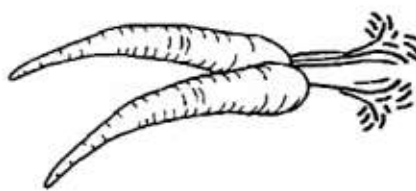
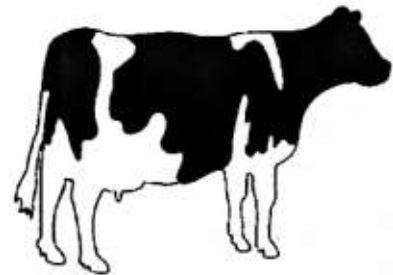
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Answer: Choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

Draw a Line

Taking care of animals is a way to serve the Lord. Draw a line to what these animals would eat.





THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON HOSTS:

DR. DIANA BUTLER BASS

speaking on

A NEW SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Based on her Book
Christianity After Religion

Friday November 2, 2012 6:30pm-9pm
Saturday November 3, 8:30am-2:00pm

Knox Presbyterian Church
23 Melville Street, Dundas, Ontario

Registration (limited) \$20, payable on arrival
(under age 30 FREE)

Pre-registration required by October 22
macnabsec@cogeco.ca 905 529-6896

*see Presbyterian Record review – July-Aug/12

MacNab is fortunate to be able to host Presbytery's guest speaker Diana Butler Bass on Sunday, November 4th. Diana is an internationally known and popular author and speaker, able to look at the patterns in Christian history and make her findings accessible to "the rest of us."

She speaks regularly to churches, retreats and workshops in North America. Her first two books were *A People's History of Christianity* and *Christianity for the Rest of us*.

Her time with us on November 4th will be on the theme of Awakening.

Kevin Russell and Cathy Stewart are both on the Presbytery Task Force that is organizing the even, and Colleen in the MacNab office is assisting with registration.

Copies of her book, for the discounted rate of \$16, are available from the Church office.