

# TIDELINES

NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE, 2009.

## From the Minister's Desk.....

One of my favourite songs of Sarah Brightman is "Time to say Goodbye". I find its melody haunting and the refrain tends to stay with me for a long time. It's those words that are ringing in my head these days as we prepare for a transition in the office.

Coleen is retiring as our church administrator after 23 years. That is a long time for anyone to be in one position but particularly in church work. Yet unfailingly, she has moved with grace through a number of significant changes in this congregation over the years and has at times served as a consistent face, a reassuring presence and a listening ear to a lot of people. It is the depth of relationship that Coleen has fostered in her role that makes it difficult for this "time to say goodbye" to come round.

As a culture, we are not very good at endings or goodbyes. We don't teach our children well on how to handle them nor does our society as a whole know what to do with them. As a result, we often leave people to work it out alone. Endings can be forced, unexpected or inevitable. They come in the form of job losses, endings of marriage, death of a loved one or change in health status. In most cases, very little, in a ritualistic way, happens to help us through the transition. Even in death these days, more and more people in our secular society are opting to have no memorial service or funeral. That leaves us, as a society and as individuals, feeling adrift. Somehow we have convinced ourselves that "the less said, the better".

Yet all the research about grief tells us exactly the opposite. Without time to talk, process and work through the pain, we are crippled by our grief. As a Christian community,

it is another gift we have to offer in helping individuals and groups of people to celebrate and grieve in the face of loss and change. It is imperative that we acknowledge both our sense of loss and pain as well as balance it with our memories of the gifts of the person or event. Celebrating all of those things is critical and rituals can help us in a significant way.

Coleen's retirement brings us face to face again with change and loss for this congregation. Thankfully, in this case, Coleen's retirement is a natural conclusion to a job faithfully carried out. We are blessed that Coleen will continue her ministry, albeit in a new way, as she continues to worship with us. As part of that process of letting go and blessing her in her new role and life, you have been invited to a celebration on **June 27<sup>th</sup>**. Talk with either Joy Olesky or Cheryl Petersen for more information or to find out how you can contribute to the celebration.

But most of all, may we all find ways in our collective lives to ritualize life's changes. May we be witnesses to the power of these rituals to make life richer, healthier and more meaningful.



## **IT'S A PARTY ! AND YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR COLEEN**

**WHEN: JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**STARTS: 12:00 noon**  
**ENDS: by 3:00pm**  
**WHERE: Here!**

All of our church family, of all ages, past and present, are invited to come together to honour Coleen Pearce, our multi-tasking angel in the office, our friend and heart-centred Administrator who is retiring in June.

### **THE PLAN:**

**Noon:** All ages meet in the **church hall** to eat a light lunch and mingle.

**1:30:** - children will move to an age appropriate program while the adults will move to the sanctuary for entertainment and gift presentation.

## **Strawberry Tea**

Many thanks to all our tremendous volunteers who set up, served, and sashayed round the hall



Wednesday (June 3) afternoon. That includes our amazing Line Dancers consisting of Coleen Pierce, Joy Olesky, Jane Fogh-Dohmsmidt, Beth Klick, Marjorie Cowley Peary, Sherry Ridout, and Cheryl Petersen. Karen McIvor was leading the hoedown with stompin' tunes and a highlight was provided by Raina Saunders and her fiddle.

## **Cadboro Bay United Church Annual Family Retreat.**

45 children and adults of all ages gathered for a fun filled weekend May 29-31<sup>st</sup> at Camp Pringle on Shawnigan Lake. The spectacular weather meant that the children spent most of the afternoon in the water. Swimming, boating and sand play were just some of the activities that focussed the afternoon time. Lots of laughter, interaction with nature, spontaneous play and the making for new friends characterized the time together. As we gathered in the outdoor chapel for worship Sunday Morning, we were pleasantly surprised to find thermoses of pre-service coffee! Communion together with the many other meals shared made a more memorable weekend. A special thank you to the Tonkin and Wakelin families for co-ordinating our food needs throughout the weekend and to Heather Coey for leading our morning program.

## **What A Sale!!**

The Church Giant Garage Sale was a great success in many ways. Financially we are **\$3039** farther ahead than we were a week ago but most importantly we had fun as a community and got to know each other a little better. In the serious search for the tackiest item in the Sale, Wanda Walker came out miles ahead of everyone else.

Seventy people volunteered their time pricing items, lugging boxes down from the upstairs rooms, setting up the wares, selling, tallying, packing up the leftovers and delivering them to the Salvation Army. What a wonderful crew!! Thank you to all who donated items and their time to make the sale a success.



Thanks to the efforts of several knitters at CBUC, a huge collection of Comfort Dolls has been donated to ICROSS (International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering). The dolls will be used to pack medical equipment for shipping, and then given to children. The work of your busy hands and warm hearts is appreciated!!

### **Outreach Survey**

The committee wants to thank everyone who completed a survey (hard copy or online) and offers it's appreciation for your time. Approximately 22% of congregational members filled out the survey and initial results are in. The Outreach committee will pour over the results during the summer months and propose new actions beginning in the fall. Initial responses let us know than the themes of homelessness and First Nations are high priorities for education and awareness. Action on the environment is a close third. Interest in global outreach and refugees/new Canadians are further down the list. Acting locally in poverty alleviation continues to have a strong involvement.

The tool we used, tried to cover lots of ground and we may try it a different way another time, trying to get more written responses. In the meantime, keep up your Outreach offerings over the summer and remember that:

**We Are The Change We Have Been Waiting For!**

### **Library Pick's for Summer Reading**

For a light read check out some of the novels that have been donated over the years or some of the titles in the "Spirituality Of" series that were mentioned in May's Tidelines. If you want something a little meatier, the books from this year's monthly themes will remain displayed on the door rack & on the display table all summer. If there was a topic or title you wanted to explore but didn't have the time or it wasn't available, now is your chance!!! Ross is exploring some of Carl Jung's ideas on spirituality so talk to him if that is an area of interest.

New books to the library & the books on Emerging Christianity will remain on the cart for the summer before being shelved under what we hope will be a more reader friendly system.

Please return any books you have finished with and let us know of any that need to be culled due to being outdated or due to inappropriate subject matter. The library is open whenever the church is, so come in and browse when you need to get out of the sun.....

If you find any interesting titles or authors that you think should be added to the collection please let one of the library committee know.

With thanks..... Eileen, Tom & Marilyn, & Sherry

### **Reading the Story: another way of connecting**

Every week during the worship service, someone from our congregation walks to the front of the Sanctuary, stands in the pulpit, and reads a particular passage from the Bible. How does that work? Who gets to read scripture for our community worship?

For almost 2 decades, Eugene Hetherington, a member of our congregation, had the task of drawing up a list of people who were interested in reading scripture and from that list, constructing a schedule. Like so many tasks that are done at Cadboro Bay United Church, this was an "invisible" job, but one which our ministers and the worship committee highly valued. With Eugene's retirement from the worship committee, we began to search for someone else who could do this important task for us. Fortunately, we didn't have to look very far- Pam Irvine has agreed to line up our Bible readers and for the past few weeks she has been contacting our regular readers, as well as encouraging new people to give this service opportunity a try.

If you enjoy reading the Bible or have a flare for dramatic reading, please contact **Pam Irvine at [pam.irvine@shaw.ca](mailto:pam.irvine@shaw.ca) or 250.881.8152**. It may be too late now to fit you into this next 4 month schedule, ending in September, but Pam will take your name for the next one. Thanks again, Pam, for your assistance with this, and to all of our Bible readers, long-time and new: the worship committee is grateful for your contributions to our worship life.

**So that's who gets to read the Story in our community worship- you do!**

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[www.cadbayuc.org](http://www.cadbayuc.org)

## **Summer Children's Program**

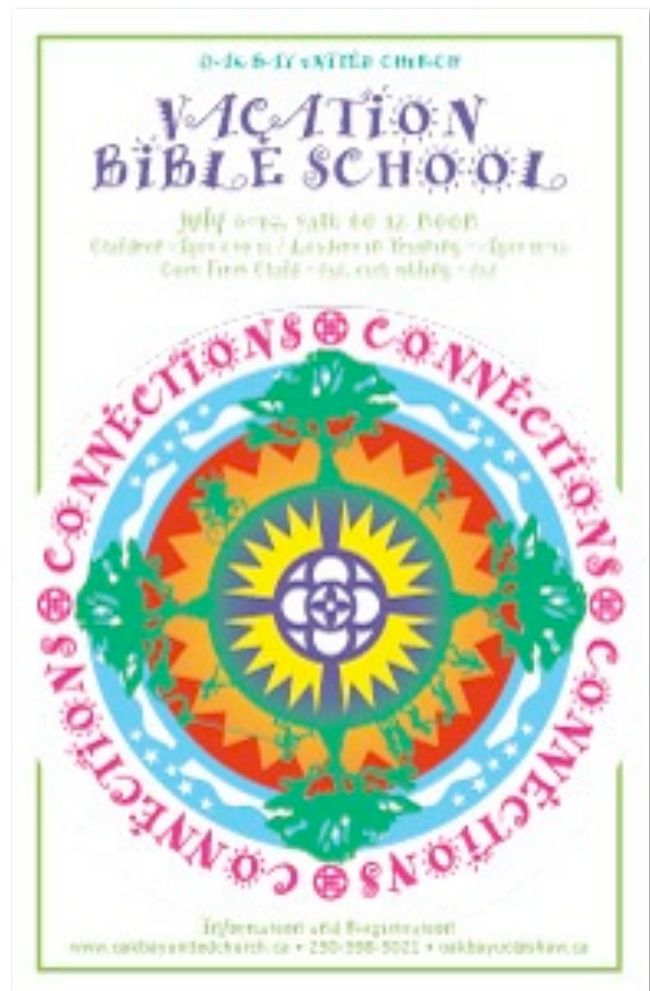
Those of you who have been around the church for a while or those of you who were on the family retreat weekend, will be familiar with Ellen Hunter Perkins. Ellen has grown up in this congregation and for the last 2 years has been on staff at Naramata doing leadership with children. This year Ellen is staying in Victoria and we are thrilled to announce that she has agreed to fill the contract position of leading our Sunday Morning children's program throughout June, July and August. Ellen brings a wealth of creativity, an abundance of joy and energy and.... well most importantly.... children simply love to be with her. Congratulations and Thanks Ellen.

## **Introducing Our New Office Administrator**

After several months of work, the committee charged by the council to find a replacement for Coleen Pearce after her retirement, has been successful. We are pleased to introduce you to Meghan Thonger. Meghan has an extensive background and experience in administration, strong communication, organization and multitasking skills and a wealth of knowledge and experience with computers and program applications. She is a positive and upbeat person that we hope you will all enjoy getting to know. She will begin her orientation to the job, June 15<sup>th</sup> and will take over full time, July 1<sup>st</sup>. The interview and selection committee was made up of David Coulter, Doug Schiedel, Wanda Walker, Sherry Ridout and Mark Green. The process was a challenging one and we are pleased with the outcome and commend Meghan to you all. Welcome Meghan !!!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009**

Our children have been invited by Oak Bay United to a week of fun, **July 6-10 from 9 -12**. This years theme is "Connections" and will focus on the virtues of humility, hope, forgiveness and empathy. Activities will include singing, drawing, constructing a "junk city", creating stepping stones and many other favourites. For more information or to register, call Oak Bay United church at 250-598-5091 or visit them online at <http://www.oakbayunitedchurch.ca>





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Take the Smile Card with you to Thrifty Foods when you go grocery shopping. Ask the cashier to load any amount you wish onto the card **before** paying for your grocery order. Pay for the card load with cash, debit card or credit card.\*

Pay for your grocery order with the Smile Card.

### **It's that simple!**

\*Thrifty Foods will donate 5% of the amount loaded on your Smile Card to the fundraising group. There is absolutely no cost to you. When the card is running low, load it again to continue to support your group every time you shop!



**United Church Women's DAY APART**  
Day Apart event for United Church Women will be held on **Wednesday June 25, 2009** at George Pringle Memorial Camp. Application forms are at the back of the church after service.  
Please contact Julie (telephone 250-361-1467) if you wish to participate in car pooling or further information.



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**BC CONFERENCE - May 21 - 24, 2009  
(Sportsplex, Langley)**

I was privileged to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of BC Conference of the United Church of Canada on behalf of Cadboro Bay UC. It gave me an appreciation of the larger picture of the United Church congregations in BC and the successes and challenges we all face. The Theme of this years conference was "Holding the Centre" based on the verse in Isaiah 41:10 - "I will hold you in my hand." The conference was conducted very efficiently under the leadership of the outgoing President, Rev. Hilde Seal of Knox United Church in Parksville. The President-Elect is Rev. Dan Chambers of St. David's United Church in West Vancouver.

The Theme speaker for the Conference was the Rev. Dr. Peter Short (a former moderator of the United Church of Canada). He was an excellent speaker and gave us lots to think about on the theme of Holding the Centre.

One of the rewards in attending a Conference like this is the people you meet and the personal face it puts on the variety of churches throughout this province. You realize that many of the same challenges (financial and otherwise) as well as personnel issues are a fact of life for many of the congregations. It also puts a perspective on our own challenges and how thankful we should be for the leadership and solid position of Cadboro Bay UC. One rural congregation has been without a minister for over a year and are still hopeful in finding someone. Another four point charge for two ministers has been struggling with only one minister for awhile. I met another woman who had "lost" the church she had attended for many years and was struggling to adapt to the amalgamation she was forced to accept.

One thing that impressed me at the Conference was the inclusion of children and the programming in place for them. They led the worship on Saturday morning with great enthusiasm. Providing care for younger children produced a lengthy discussion later when a proposal was brought forward to include children younger than the age for programming presently provided. Parents with younger children would like to attend more of the conference sessions but would require care for their younger children.

The musicians who provided the music for the conference were talented and their ability to inspire the attendees resulted in enthusiastic participation by all.

On Friday, the various Presbyteries held their individual meetings. At the Victoria Presbytery meeting, Ruth Cairns was inducted as the new chair of Victoria Presbytery succeeding Allan Saunders. Ruth is the minister at Saltspring UC.

The Camp Futures project also brought out a lot of discussion. As you can imagine when you try to reduce the many UC camps currently in BC down to four, some areas will be upset and feel quite strongly about having a camp available to them closer to their Presbytery. However, the cost of maintaining all of the current camps was becoming impossible to fund and something had to be done. Discussion was also brisk around the cost of holding these conferences and the problem raised with General Council being every 3 years while BC Conference is every 2 years (but has to meet 2 out of every 3 years in order to meet the same year as General Conference).

On Saturday we had the opportunity to hear from each of the 14 candidates (ordinands, commissioning, recognition and admissions). This was the largest group to be presented for acceptance at the Conference in many years. It was a pleasure to hear them respond to the question of what "holding the centre" means to them.

All in all, the conference was a learning and rewarding experience for me. It left me with a feeling of hope and confidence in the future of the church and our own congregation at Cadboro Bay.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Schiedel

