

The Courier

CRESCENT'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2014

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Minister's Message

September greetings to you all

An Invitation for You: Go Deep

Earlier this year the congregation of Crescent United arrived at a broad agreement that one of the directions in which they believe God is calling us right now is in the direction of deepening spiritual practice. Responding to that discernment, Sunday mornings this fall will see programmes offered before and after the 10 AM worship service (Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer from 9:00 am to 9:45 am and a Bible study on Matthew's gospel from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm), as well as the continuation of the 7 am Wednesday morning prayer service. The healing ministry continues to be available by request while

other plans are also in the works and will hopefully be announced shortly. Our partners in ministry at First United in White Rock will continue to offer a contemplative service one Sunday evening a month, as well as opportunities to partner with them in the feeding ministry.

Progress with the interim ministry slowed in the spring as the leadership here at Crescent looked for ways to pursue partnerships on the peninsula. Council chairperson Peter Jones wrote on the subject of patience in the last issue of the Courier and returns to that subject in this issue. With factors affecting us that are outside our sphere of control, when the way forward is not entirely clear, when it seems what we need most is patience; these are signs to me that it is time for us to go deep.

Deep into the wisdom and strength of the Christian tradition: contemplation; service to others; working for justice; studying the Holy texts; gathering together to lift our voices in song and in prayer; praying for, listening to, and supporting one another. These practices will help open us to receiving the graces we need in the months ahead: patience, hope, faith, love, trust, and whatever else you find lacking or waning in you.

The fruit that will come from going more deeply into the roots of our Christian tradition will serve us not only in the hard work of being United Church people in 2014, but also it will serve us in the hard work we face elsewhere in our lives: the hard work of being teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and students in our public education system; the hard work of balancing childcare, aging parents, ailing spouses, challenging work scenarios; the hard work that we all experience some days in the struggle for life that goes on behind the calm and together-looking personas we try to project to those around us.

This fall and winter I encourage you to go deep. In doing so, may you find rest for your soul and sustenance for your spirit.

Grace and Peace
Scott



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Council Chair: Patience ... again

"But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22

Yes, "Patience" was the title of my Courier article this summer, and yes, this theme continues to have a hold on me.

I find myself wanting to explore, embrace, and meditate on patience because this virtue is needed in these days of change and renewal.

In his letter to the Galatians Paul wrote that patience is fruit of the Holy Spirit, and patience and endurance in the face of challenges is a common theme in his letters to the early Christian church.

But I don't believe he means we are to passively wait. This reference in Galatians is part of an appeal to 'love your neighbour as yourself'; it is part of an ethic for action. It seems to me that patience needs to be part of our active acceptance of the journey, with its risk and hard work, required to attain our goals and dreams.

The development of a new partnership with the other United Churches on the Semiahmoo Peninsula will require time, and I struggle with the temptation to run out and try to "fix" a problem that requires faithful patience.

A new partnership, a new relationship, will come about only through experiences we share with our brothers and sisters on the Peninsula. Cancelling worship at Crescent United for 3 Sundays in July and encouraging everyone to worship at Sunnyside and First United Churches was a very significant step in this journey.

As you may be aware, First United cancelled their worship service on July 13 in response to our invitation to the other churches to join us in worship with Jim and Jean Strathdee. Members of Sunnyside were also encouraged to join us, and the result was a very memorable experience.

In recent conversations with members from the other United Churches they often comment on how refreshed and alive they felt when we all worshipped together. Thanks to Susan Zwick and Val Austring for their courage in proposing we step outside our walls.

With the arrival of September, Scott has had a chance to connect with the new ministers at these churches, the Reverend Louise Cummings at First United and the Reverend Peggy Jensen at Sunnyside United. The three of them, along with the Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis at First United, recently met and discussed ways to improve communication between our churches and foster more collaboration.

It is important to note that all of these ministers are on term appointments. As we plan for the end of our Interim Ministry with Scott in 2015, there is a wonderful and rare opportunity to align our new pastoral appointment at Crescent with those at the other United Churches on the Peninsula, and thereby make a transition to a new relationship amongst us much more likely.

Our journey together over the coming months will also give us a deeper understanding of the virtue of patience.

Thanks be to God for this gift.

Yours in faith
Peter Jones – Council Chairperson
PeterJones@telus.net



Hazeltones
Fall-O-Along Singalong
Sunday, September 21, 2014
Come for an afternoon of gospel, country and contemporary music.
Singalong 2 pm; Refreshments 3:15 pm
Crescent United UCW Fundraiser

Transition Team Report

We are glad to be back to our work after a much needed break over the summer. It was very encouraging to see the response of all 3 peninsula United Church congregations to our "experiment" of visiting the other 2 churches for morning worship three Sundays in July. Many Crescent folks took advantage of this, and we were warmly welcomed at both Sunnyside and at First United. On July 13th, First United cancelled their worship service and joined us here at Crescent for our special musical worship service. Some Sunnyside folks also joined us that day, even though their regular service went ahead as usual.

It was obvious that there are many familiar faces and acquaintances across the three congregations. This bodes well for our future relationships, and conversations between the congregations continue, including the establishment of a joint peninsula planning group.

Looking ahead, the Transition Team has prepared a timeline of activities and tasks that must be accomplished this fall and winter leading to the end of Scott's current appointment at Crescent on March 31, 2015.

- ✧ September – establish Peninsula Planning Group with First and Sunnyside.
- ✧ October – conduct congregational asset and information survey.
- ✧ November – prepare Identity, Mission, and Asset Document. This will provide information for both discussions with our potential partners, and our B.C. Conference Ministry Profile and Search Report (formerly Joint Needs Assessment Report).
- ✧ Mid-January – complete Ministry Profile and Search Report.
- ✧ February – congregational decision to Appoint or Call a minister for July 1, 2015.
- ✧ January/February – lay Worship Leadership Training.
- ✧ February 17 – recommendation to Council re worship leadership coverage for April to June, 2015.
- ✧ March – Spiritual Event open to Crescent United and others.

Thank you for upholding the work of the Transition Team as this congregation finds its way forward as a faithful part of the body of Christ.

Val Austring
Transition Team Chair

Summary Interim Ministry Event, June 18, 2014

On June 18th 25 people gathered to hear a review of the meeting held May 14th with representatives from Crescent, First United White Rock, and Sunnyside. Each church brought to this meeting a metaphor to characterize their congregation at this moment in time.

- **First United** visualized a fertile garden, with some weeds and years of neglect to be tended to, but with rich ground to be tilled.
- **Sunnyside** produced a social 'tea and cookies' mindset, with hope for the future but not much idea of what the future could look like.
- **Crescent** envisioned the camels being packed. We are ready and willing to embark upon a journey to something new.

The report was followed by an opportunity for the event participants to share opinions and concerns around the difficulty of waiting and the repercussions of dwindling resources. The consensus at the end of the evening was to continue to pursue our primary partnership idea, though this would require patience, and that during the Fall and Winter work on deepening our spirituality could be an energizing focus.



Financial Snapshot

Compared to last year at this time our financial situation is much improved thanks to some very generous gifts in the spring. We are also pleased to report that the offerings during August more than made up for the missed weeks during July, and we have carried through on our agreements with the other Peninsula churches to ensure that gifts made in envelopes were returned to the appropriate church.

We look forward to the fall season which should show more improvement as we approach Advent. For those of you who give a steady amount on a regular basis, please consider using PAR as this keeps the income stream very steady throughout the year. If you are on PAR, please use the PAR cards which are available in the Narthex, or in the pews.

From the Envelope Secretary

Thanks to members of the congregation for maintaining their offerings over the summer in spite of our reduced worship schedule in July. It is very helpful to have so many households on PAR (about half of the congregation) for the steady and level income that provides. In addition, we are thankful that those who use Envelopes recognized the need to maintain their summer offerings with additional givings in August. Thank you!



The Mission & Service Fund

How are we doing?

Our Goal to December 31/14 \$40,000

Our Gifts to August 31/14 \$24,653

With 67.3 % of the Sundays gone

we have achieved 61.6% of our Goal!

We need just \$2267 to reach 67.3% of our goal.

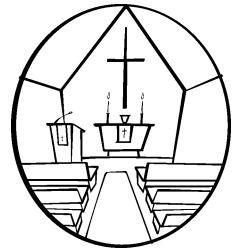
If some people give more and more people
give some

Together we will achieve our goal!!!

**Thank You for Your Gifts!
We are Making a Difference!**

Worship News

With the arrival of September, we turn the page and begin a time the United Church calls "Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost". The Worship Committee seeks to provide a meaningful and transformative worship experience for the congregation during this "Creation Time." Some things we hope will add to the worship experience in the coming weeks are:



- ✧ The addition of water to our ritual of processing the Light and the Bible at the beginning of our service. Water is a sacred resource within Creation and also symbolizes renewal within Christianity.
- ✧ The practice of introducing church committees during the announcement time on a monthly basis. This idea came from feedback received by the Worship Committee last year from members of the congregation.
- ✧ The newest addition to the Worship group - Denice Grant, our new Music Director. The Worship Committee welcomed Denice and her husband, Ozzie, at a potluck dinner held in July.

In addition to the initiatives outlined above, please note the following special dates:

- ✧ **October 5th** – World Communion Sunday – Gordon Verplank, Worship Leader.
- ✧ **October 12th** – Thanksgiving Sunday and Pet Blessing
- ✧ **November 9th** – Worship led by Wendy Bily

The Worship Committee values all feedback from members of the congregation. We depend on you to help us know what it is you are hoping/yearning for in your worship experience.

Blessings from

Susan Zwick, Chair

Val Thorner

Judy Decker

Marilyn Dyer-Seidel

Denice Grant

Evelyn Grimston

Lesley Mussett

Ken Hembroff

Scott Swanson

Needed: Church Custodian

If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, in the Caretaker position which is a part-time paid position, please contact **Dick Logie** at **604-541-1196** for more information, or send a letter of interest and your resume to logier@shaw.ca.

A Very Interesting Opportunity!

We need an M&S Enthusiast – a person to keep us informed about the hundreds of ways our gifts to the Mission & Service Fund are used to show the Love of God to people all across Canada and in 24 countries around the world. This job will be easier if you have access to a computer as lots of interesting information is available at: www.united-church.ca\M&S.



To find out more about how you can help the Mission & Service Fund, call **Gerry Farbridge** **604-542-1578** or gfarbridge@gmail.com.

Note of Appreciation

We are sorry to announce that as of September 30th, Fred Wickens will no longer be carrying out the duties of Caretaker for Crescent United Church. Fred has been a great Caretaker for the past several years and we are sad to see him go. He is a Handy Man's Handy Man.

Of course he also is a good cook, and was instrumental for so many years in keeping the soup Sunday going.

Thanks very much Fred for all you have done, you will be missed.

Need a Ride?

Bev Wickstrom has agreed to be the co-ordinator of persons willing to provide transportation to church on Sundays. If a ride would make it possible for you to attend church, just call **Bev Wickstrom @ 604-536-6252** and she will arrange a ride for you.

Healing Touch

Healing Touch will only be available for individual healing sessions.

Please email heal@crescentunitedchurch.com to request an appointment. We thank you for your support through the years.



Fair Trade Coffee

Thanks to the pioneering of Bernie Woodward, Crescent United continues to sell Fair Trade coffee for your enjoyment at home or office. We buy direct from Level Ground Trading Ltd. which is owned and operated by four families who live and work on Vancouver Island. (www.levelground.com) You can purchase a 300g bag for \$8.00. Note: \$1.30 from each bag sold goes towards our Children's Camp Bursary Fund. If you would like more information about our self-serve station please contact **Raquel Merriman at 604-531-4112**.

NEW ITEM!!! For those of you who have requested WHOLE BEANS, there are six bags of their Summer Blend for the same price available in the cupboard.

Please let me know if you have an interest in purchasing LOOSE LEAF Tea which is shade-grown in small tea gardens in India without the use of chemical sprays or fertilizers. These tea gardens are owner-operated and all the processing is done by hand. We would need a minimum order of 12 bags at 70g each for \$6.00 per bag. The choices are: LOOSE LEAF Green Tea, Chai Tea, Black Tea and Smoked Tea. Thank you for your continued support and Happy Sipping.

Salmon BBQ

PLEASE JOIN US on **Sunday, September 28** after the Service for the Men's Group Salmon BBQ. A delicious and fresh lunch of salmon, corn on the cob, salad and a bun will be provided by donation.

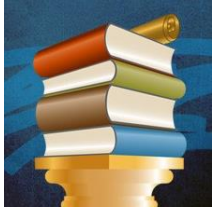


If you would like to contribute a baked goodie for our feast, please call our new Soup Sunday coordinator, **Valerie Lane at 604-372-2560**.

If you would like to help with the set-up and/or clean-up, please speak with Fred or Warren. If you have transportation concerns please call **Bev Wickstrom at 604-536-6252**. Thank you for joining us and we hope to see you all there.



Library News



I am working on an inventory of the library. There are quite a few books missing, including the library cards.

If you have any books at home, please return them, so that they will be available to

other members of the congregation.

When you borrow books, please put the book card with your name, phone number and date in the little grey box.

Some of the new books this year are:

- ✧ ***The Other Side of Chaos: Breaking Through When Life is Breaking Down*** by Margaret Silf.
- ✧ ***Pure Gold: the Olympic Champion Who Inspired Chariots of Fire*** by Eric Liddell.
- ✧ ***Alzheimer's: Reliable Information for Patients and Their Families*** by Carolyn Dean.
- ✧ ***Thomas Merton: Faithful Missionary*** by Michael W. Higgins.
- ✧ ***Radical Hospitality*** by Lonnie C. Pratt.
- ✧ ***Resurrection: Myth or Reality*** by John S. Spong.
- ✧ ***Praying with the Sick*** by Sandra DeGidio.

These are just some of the titles. These books were all donated. Thank you very much for all these worthwhile additions.

The newest books are always on the shelf just above the phone.

Happy reading

Henriette Pieron, Librarian CUC

Thursday Community Dinners at First United



We are beginning our third year of partnership with Sunnyside, First United & Sources (food Bank) to

provide a delicious meal twice a month for folks in our community needing nutrition, community & a welcoming atmosphere.

New volunteers are always welcome: there is a job for everyone. We need cooks, kitchen helpers, set up people, platers, servers, greeters, cleanup crew, and dishwashers. Usually you are assigned to a team and can expect to be called on for every third dinner, October until June.

This is a great ministry – we have anywhere from 45 – 75 people at each meal – and a very fun way to get to know some people from the other United Churches.

If you are able to help or if you would just like more information, call Alyth McDougall at (604)541-7287.

UCW Events:



Ladies - Mark your calendars for

The UCW Fraser Presbyterial Fall Rally

to be held at Northwood United Church – 8855 156th Street Surrey. The rally will be held on **October 21** beginning at **9:00 am**. The theme this year is "Thanksgiving". Carpooling opportunities will be available. For further information please speak to Winnie Kowalewich.

UCW Frozen Baked Goods Sale

We hope that many of the congregation members will take the opportunity to purchase quality frozen food items (mostly baked goods) and stock up for the fall. There are some new items this year. Order forms will be available for the next few weeks at the church. Forms need to be returned by **Sept. 23** and items will be delivered to the church for pick up on **Oct. 18**. Please encourage family, friends or neighbours to participate. Your help to make this a successful fund raising event is appreciated. For further information speak to Val Weinert. 604-536-6576.

Crescent United Recycles

- ✧ **Eyeglasses** – These are sorted and sent to third-world countries where they are given to people who otherwise would not have glasses.
- ✧ **Campbell Soup Labels** – These are delivered to Sunnyside Elementary School. The School is able to get free art supplies, library books, playground equipment and computer equipment.
- ✧ **Used Postage Stamps** – these are delivered to the Canadian Bible Society by **Doris Mowat**. They are sold and the funds are used to provide bibles to prisons and to impoverished people around the world. **The Bible society now has a new simpler version of the bible which is appreciated by many prisoners. Please leave ¼ inch around stamp.**

There are containers for these 3 items in the top right-hand cupboard in the Narthex.

- ✧ **Used Clothing and Small Household Items**
 - ✧ **Children's Clothing** is delivered to the Oak Ave. Clothes Closet by **Janet Petras** or **Sarah Hunter**. **Please leave children's clothing in the box beside the elevator downstairs.**
 - ✧ **Adult Clothing and Small Household Items** are delivered to First United Church, Vancouver by **Lorna Klohn** or to the Hub at Oak Ave. in North Surrey by **Janet** or **Sarah**.

Please leave adult clothing and household items in the box in the Narthex.

- ✧ **Non Perishable Food** donated on the first 2 Sundays of the month is delivered to the South Surrey/White Rock Food Bank by **Eleanor and Grant Bracewell**. Food donated on the 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays is delivered to First United Church by **Lorna Klohn**.

Please leave donations of food in the baskets in the Narthex.

Thanks to everyone who has donated things! Special Thanks to the people who deliver our gifts!

✂..... PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE✂

Crescent Credits

This column in the Courier gives us an opportunity to thank and acknowledge the ministry, caring, and work that happens here at Crescent.



In the office we don't know everything that goes on, so we need your help. Please call or e-mail the office with any name(s) you would like to recognize for service:

- A big thank you to all the volunteers of the Thursday Community Dinners at First United, White Rock;
- Bob Arwick and helpers for watering the gardens over the summer months;
- Lorna Klohn, who delivers to First United in Vancouver, and Eleanor and Grant Bracewell, who deliver to the Local Food Bank;
- The Transition Team for its time and effort in guiding the Interim Ministry;
- Kathy Cross and Joan Bywater for proofreading the weekly bulletins and Sylvia Uhreen for proofreading the Newsletters;
- Shirley Bourke, Evelyn Grimston, and Dorothy Stebbe who help in the office with folding bulletins;
- Those who take the opportunity to read the Minutes for Mission announcements on Sunday mornings;
- Those who make sure we have Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hosts for Sunday Services;
- Countless others who faithfully carry on the work of the church.

Family Album

In Loving Memory

Pray the gentle compassion of God be with those families who have lost a loved one.



- Maria Booth and family, at the passing of her husband, The Reverend Dr. Rod Booth.
- The family of Iris Henderson
- The family of Gerda Kliever

Weddings

Our congregation rejoices with the couples and their families who have recently married:

- Janet Petras & Sarah Hunter



Important Dates to Remember

Sundays:

Spiritual Practice Group – 9 - 9:45 am –
Library
**Worship Services, Sunday School &
Youth** – 10am
Bible Study – 11:15 am – 12:15 pm –
Library

Fridays:

En-Core Pilates – 9:30 am – Narthex

Sunday, September 21

Hazeltones Fall-O-Along Singalong – 2 pm

Tuesday, September 23

Deadline for Frozen Food Orders

Sunday, September 28

Salmon Barbecue (after the service)

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday – Gordon
Verplank, Worship Leader

Sunday, October 12

Thanksgiving Sunday and Pet
Blessing



Monday, October 13 – Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed

Saturday, October 18

Pick up of Frozen Food Orders – Noon

Sunday, October 19

Soup Sunday (after the service)

Tuesday, October 21

UCW Presbyterian Fall Rally

Sunday, November 2

Change Your Clocks!
Daylight Savings Time Ends



Sunday, November 9

Worship led by Wendy Bily

Tuesday, November 11 – Remembrance Day

Office Closed

Sunday, November 16

Soup Sunday (after the service)

Saturday, November 29

Advent Wreath & Potluck Dinner



Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

Hillcrest UCW Bake Sale



Church Office Hours

Monday to Thursday – 9 am to 2:30 pm

Friday: 9 am – 12 noon

The church office will be closed:

Thanksgiving Day – Monday, October 13th
Remembrance Day – Tuesday, November 11th

Sunday Lectionary Readings

are available at the United
Church of Canada website:

www.united-church.ca/planning/lectionary

