

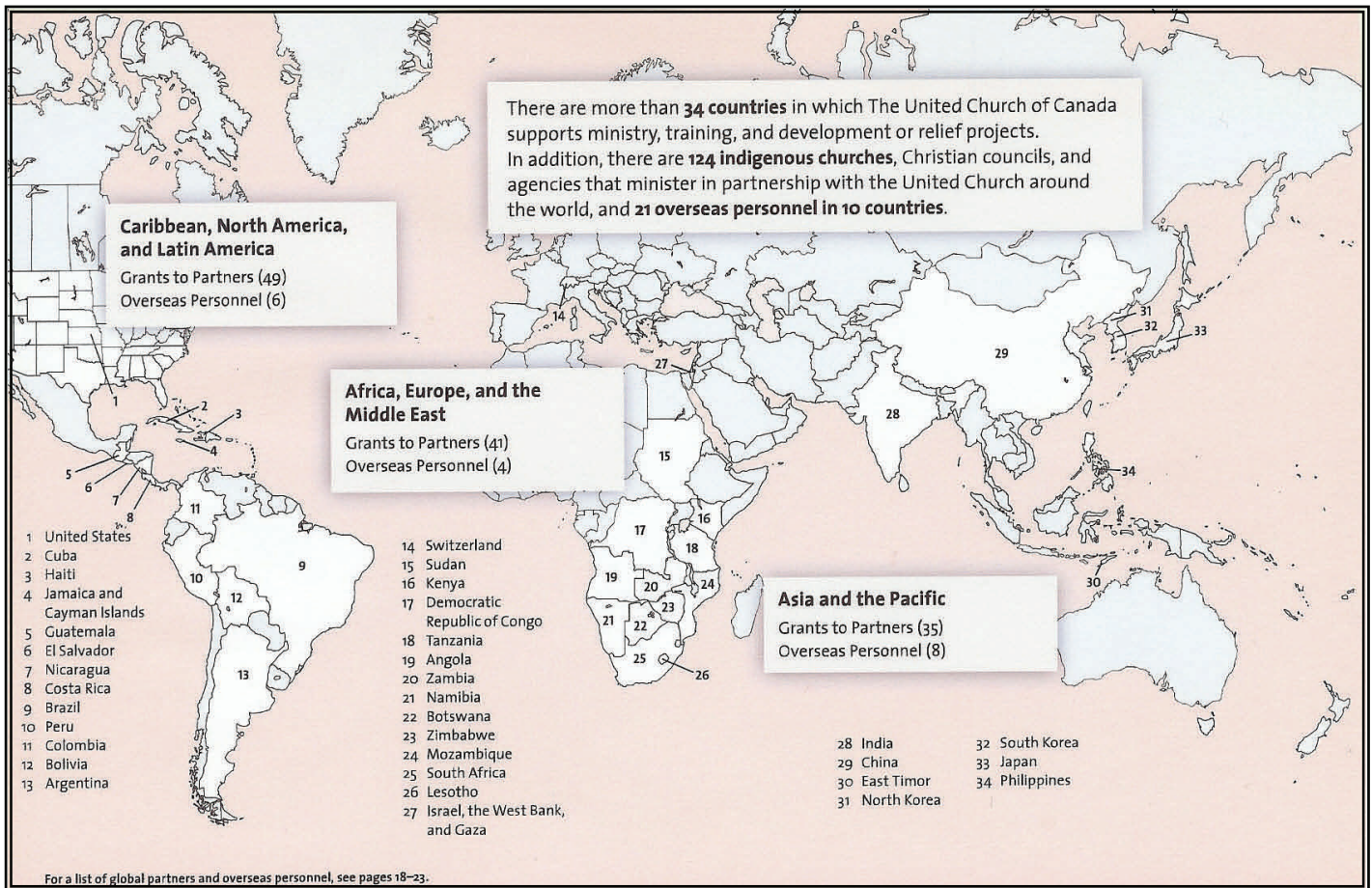


# The Mustard Seed

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## Global Partners of the United Church



The United Church of Canada has partnerships with national churches, ecumenical organizations, Christian Councils and church agencies around the world. Some of these partnerships have evolved from overseas mission work which started in the late 19th century and some from recent contact and collaboration.

The United Church of Canada and its global partners are called to work together in God's mission for wholeness of life. The Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit facilitates the relationships that enable The United Church of Canada and global partners to work together. We are one partner among many, called to receive and to give.

<http://www.united-church.ca/partners>

go to page 5 for details on ACT, the United Church's Global Partner in Africa

## From David's Desk



As I write this newsletter article, the weather is holding and the colours are still summer colours. The leaves falling outside the church are doing so because of the hot weather we've been having rather than because fall has come. Of course, fall is not far off.

I, for one, am holding on to the warmth and the sunshine. It is uplifting and exhilarating to bask in the glow of the September sun. I think there's a metaphor in this idea of basking in the September sun but also knowing that the weather is going to change.

There has long been a rhythm to our spiritual lives and to the life of the church. Firstly, there is the yearly rhythm with Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the long season after Pentecost. But more than this worship cycle, there is the rhythm of the weather seasons, the rhythm of the school year, the rhythm of the financial year and the calendar year. There are birthdays, births and deaths. We participate in these rhythms every year with new wisdom, experience and knowledge. And that participation changes us.

There are bigger rhythms at play in our lives as well. There's the rhythm of getting older, wiser, and more experienced. We learn from our mistakes, grow as individuals, deepen our spiritual lives, and learn to be together in community. As a congregation, we are older, wiser and more experienced. We know that we can't do things as we once did, nor should we. We've grown and learned how to be a community of faith together that is different than when began as a new congregation in 1995.

There are the rhythms of societal and historical change. We participate in these because we are citizens of the world. Ways of viewing the world change, albeit not frequently or over a short time-period. It seems that every 500 years or so, the church reforms itself, embraces new technology, new ways of viewing the world, new science, new

thinking. This rhythm is natural because we are always evolving.

All of this brings me to the thought that we are participating in the movement of many rhythms, many cycles, and that is natural. It can be a bit daunting to think of participating in all of these rhythms and cycles; it can also be tremendously freeing. We are connected to our past and the traditions that are important, but we are not constrained by them. We are constantly evolving, growing and changing (sometimes in ways that we don't like), and that is natural. The challenge is to view these changes with a positive and hopeful outlook.

As a congregation we are evolving and changing. Christine has left and is enjoying full-time ministry in Kimberley; the Needs Assessment Committee will have a report soon for all of us to consider. This report will say something about our future and what kinds of staffing will be valuable to us.

There will soon be a new structure to help us be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century congregation. While we don't know exactly yet what that will look like, we hope that it will be a structure that frees us to be live out our purpose statement more fully, that frees us to engage the issues and spiritual practices that are important to us all, and that will empower folk to be involved not to keep the bureaucratic machinery going but because serving is one way to live out our expressions of faith.

Sometimes we can be too eager for seasons to change and for the cycles and rhythms to shift more quickly. Patience in this case is a virtue. Jesus taught the value of kairois time, that there is a fullness of time, a time when something is ripe to happen. As we embrace a new year together, let us patiently seek out those kairois moments where change happens and love is experienced.

Blessings all.

# House

*Margaret Stacey used this as an opening devotion at church council meeting ...  
they thought it should be shared!*

*My son and I have been restoring a house, as many of you know. It's been devouring all my time for six months and it's now finished. I have wondered why I've been doing it - there are certainly practical reasons, but there's something else about a house in transition.....*

*It's imagination. It's dreaming.*

*Taking a tired thing and making it shine was my obsession, imagining what kind of family should live in it, what kinds of families did live in it beforehand; I knew of a young couple, and a family with seven children. I dreamed of taking it back to where both young families moved into it with great expectations. I dreamed of making it a blank canvas for someone to fill with family and atmosphere. With every stroke of the paint brush, every saw cut, every nail driven, every day of trench digging, I imagined an open future for someone else who would love it. There were days when I felt it wasn't good enough, wasn't conventional enough, wasn't done professionally, and other days when it seemed breathtaking. It seemed to be making its own future and celebrating its own past. My son and I left vestiges of the old families in a framed glimpse of early wallpaper, in exposed beams from the original rear cabin, in cutaway portions of chimneys to expose brick surfaces, in the shined floors that showed honesty with watermarks and stains and patches. We removed all that hid its nature and brought it back. We exposed the windows, views glowing with green from spring outside, we found doors that had been embedded in walls for half a century and let the light in.*

*It drove us more than we drove it.*

*My point: in so many ways it was like what we are trying to do with our church – go back to basics, look at the nature of ourselves and what we want to be, peel away the extraneous and the unnecessary, things that bog down our mission, streamline our functions, and imagine our future as a home and catalyst for our community; “incubate good things and bring Jesus to the community”, as Keith Simmonds has put it. In explorations with the Needs Assessment Committee and the constitutional revision group lately, as well as with the new purpose statement, there seems to be a convergence of mission afoot. We are putting our house in order and giving it a refreshed purpose, starting anew, yet retaining the grace of what's gone before us, looking at our good bones, building on all that's valuable, being change agents in our community, building our own internal integrity.*

*And something mysterious is driving us more than we are driving it.*

*That's what I've been dreaming, both for my house and our church, as I've locked myself up in the place for six months..*

Whatever good things we build end up building us. ~ Jim Rohn

## JNAC Update!!

The members of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee are grateful to all those who stayed for lunch on August 28<sup>th</sup> and shared their thoughts and wishes for Nelson United Church's future. The discussions were lively and varied, giving the committee members a rich source of material as we continue to assess the needs of our church community. As common themes begin to emerge we are excited about coming closer to our final report to Council and the congregation.



n a r a m a t a c e n t r e



### Times of Self Discovery

~~~~~  
Going Deeper: A Retreat for Women  
Sept 25 - 27

~~~~~  
Simple Pleasures - Reading Retreat  
Oct 13 - 16

~~~~~  
Sabbath Time  
Self-Guided 48 hours  
Oct 13 - 15 *or* Oct 27 - 31 *or* Nov 2 - 4

If you long for a time of spiritual renewal-to walk the labyrinth or the lakeside, to pursue your art or craft, or seek a time of solitude and prayerful listening - there is a place for you here at Naramata Centre.

~~~~~  
Be Still and Know that  
I am God -  
Directed 8 day  
Nov 11 - 20

This contemplative retreat offers a time to deepen your spiritual journey in an atmosphere of prayerful silence. Spiritual practice (movement, chant, centering prayer) is offered each morning and each evening ends with community Vespers in the chapel .

<http://www.naramatacentre.net/programs>

### SLOW DANCE

*Have you ever watched kids  
On a merry-go-round?  
Or listened to the rain  
Slapping on the ground?  
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?  
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?  
You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
Do you run through each day  
On the fly?  
When you ask How are you?  
Do you hear the reply?  
When the day is done!  
Do you lie in your bed  
With the next hundred chores  
Running through your head?  
You'd better slow down  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
Ever told your child,  
We'll do it tomorrow?  
And in your haste,  
Not see his sorrow?  
Ever lost touch,  
Let a good friendship die  
Cause you never had time  
To call and say, 'Hi'  
You'd better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
When you run so fast to get somewhere  
You miss half the fun of getting there.  
When you worry and hurry through your day,  
It is like an unopened gift..  
Thrown away.  
Life is not a race.  
Do take it slower  
Hear the music  
Before the song is over.*



### **Direct Partner in Current Horn of Africa Crisis**

#### **ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together)**

<http://www.actalliance.org>

- ACT is an alliance of 111 churches and church-related organizations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development.
- The alliance works in 140 countries and mobilizes US\$1.6 billion annually in its work for a just world.
- The alliance has over 33,000 people working for it globally.

**Vision:** The ACT Alliance works towards a world community where all God's creation lives with dignity, justice, peace and full respect for human rights and the environment.

**Mission:** Members of the alliance work together for positive and sustainable change in the lives of people affected by poverty and injustice through coordinated and effective humanitarian, development and advocacy work. We work with and for people of all faiths and none.

### **25th Year of NUC Men's Club!**



Meeting **Tuesday, Sept. 20 @ 7 PM** in the church lounge.  
Functions and plans for the new year will be decided upon.

New members and their ideas are very welcome.

We run an informal, friendly type of meeting and often share photos and comments regarding our annual excursions.

If you are unable to attend 3rd Tuesday of the month meetings, contact the present chairman, Bill Costain, at 250-352-2367 to indicate that you are willing to help at church functions.

#### New Purpose Statement:

***"We dare to live the Way of Jesus,  
embodying the Love of God."***



We're beginning to examine how our purpose statement informs our life together as a congregation. The Joint Needs Assessment Committee has been considering the statement with respect to staffing needs and the future more generally. The Restructuring Team has also been looking at the purpose statement to determine that we are embodying the Love of God in how we structure ourselves and that we are living the Way of Jesus.

*Any thoughts or ideas about this? Let David know, or anyone from Council, i.e. Lynne Busby, Peter Busby, Judy Cameron, Bill Costain, Leah Gray, Collin Ludwar, Roy Nelson, Carol Prochaska, Jayne Slawson, Margaret Stacey, or Donna Strongman.*

*A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'*  
*A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'*

## The United Nations International Day of Peace

1981 the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 36/67 declaring an International Day of Peace. In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution 55/282 declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked all United Nations departments and agencies to expand their observance this year, extending a special invitation to civil society as well.

The UN International Day of Peace on 21 September takes place, each year, in parallel with the International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDPP). The UN day is a day on which armed conflict is meant to be stilled, a day for combatants to observe cease-fires, a day on which all people are invited to commit or reaffirm their commitment to non-violence and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

## The World Council of Churches International Day of Prayer for Peace

The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies.

The idea was proposed in 2004 during a meeting between WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and coincides with the UN International Day of Peace. The Day of Prayer is one of the initiatives of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence.



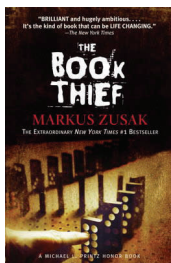
Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother.

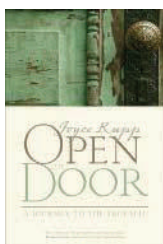
'I don't need to,' the boy replied. 'Of course, you do.' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house.' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!'

## Books



Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.



by Joyce Rupp.....Structured as a daily prayer guide for everyday use over six weeks, each day offers a thematic reflection, a guided meditation, an original prayer, a thoughtful question, and a related scripture quote. A built-in guide for small groups makes this the



# Photos



*Garage Sale*



*Friendship Tea*



*56 Unit Luncheon*

# Kid's Page

## Make Your Own School Snacks

### Dried Fruit

1. Wash fruit and cut into thin slices
2. Lay fruit on parchment covered baking sheets
3. Place tray of fruit in oven and turn oven on very low (150<sup>o</sup> to 200<sup>o</sup>). Drying process will take several hours.
4. Remove from oven when fruit is chewy (not crunchy or



### Salad On a Stick

Use any combination of veggies:

Carrots  
Cherry Tomatoes  
Broccoli  
Cauliflower



Combine with:

Olives  
Pickles  
Favorite Cheese  
Basil

Marinate in your favorite vinaigrette

Thread onto Kabob sticks.  
Great for lunches or snacks!



## Can you help the children find their way to school?

