



# The Mustard Seed

Volume 17  
Issue 3

April 2011

## EASTER

*While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came.... John 20:1*

Traditionally for Lent, Christians have participated by giving up something. Most often it is an indulgence, some measure of comfort, or a habit that is given up. "Assuming our assumptions" is one such habit we might consider next year.

I've been late for a meeting because I assumed my memory was right. I've been on the wrong side of a dispute because I assumed a comment from someone was accurate. I assumed a stereotype was right, and it tainted my perceptions. When we assume our assumptions we inevitably get into trouble. When we assume our assumptions, we make the same mistakes over again.

On Easter Day, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb with all her assumed assumptions. She assumed this tomb was like all the others she had gone to. She assumed she knew what had to be done. She assumed Jesus was dead. She assumed someone had taken his body. She assumed the person standing before her was the gardener. She assumed his questions meant he did not know a theft had occurred.

Then she heard his reply, "Mary." All her assumptions shattered.

What word would shatter all your assumptions today?

### Prayer

May we remember the strength that lies in humility and the integrity that is maintained when we let go of our assumptions. God, speak the word I need to hear from you! Amen.

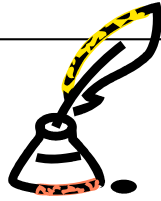
Taken from United Church of Canada/Weekly Reflections  
<http://www.united-church.ca/exploring/prayers/reflections/04>

**THE EASTER LILY** Easter has its share of traditions: egg decorations and hunts; gift baskets and chocolate bunnies, sunrise church services, parades, and, of course, the Easter Lily. For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life - the spiritual essence of Easter.

History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Dating back to Biblical lore, the lily is mentioned numerous times in the Bible. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ told his listeners: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet.... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress.

## From Davids Desk



integrity amidst scandal, inquisition, and its own desire to be a domineering force in the world. Words of hope and love, quietly spoken, have often been misheard in history and that continues today.

"May you live in interesting times!" This saying is attributed to the Chinese and it is thought to be a curse. However, a little research suggests that the Chinese origin of this phrase is not true. There is no corresponding saying in Chinese. Some suggest that it was an invention of the British or the Americans, but its origin is definitely English.

These are definitely "interesting times" for the Church but certainly not by way of curse! It is just the reality in which we live.

Our own context is a microcosm of the larger context. At our Annual General Meeting a couple of weeks ago, we had good conversation—there was a buzz—about our purpose statement. When it came time to speak about nominations, i.e. who is going to do the work of our congregation, there was a noticeable silence. I think this reflects the struggle that the Church is facing in our country: people want meaning and purpose in their lives, but not by giving time and energy to the institution of the Church.

The Church struggles to be relevant and speak words of love and hope, words that often get drowned out by the loud shouts of advertisers, the loud violence of movies and video games, and the loud cynicism that seems pervasive in our society. The world in which we live in the West seems to be so much about the individual and individual wants and desires that the collective responsibility to care for one another, to love one's neighbour, gets lost.

As I think back on the history of the Church and the world, though, I wonder if there was ever a time when the Church didn't struggle to make its message of love known. Jesus himself struggled against the domineering elements of his world. The early Church struggled with the Roman Empire. The medieval Church struggled to maintain its

The reality is that while Jesus persisted and the likes of Francis of Assisi, Mother Theresa, Oscar Romero, and Desmond Tutu also persisted, we persist in quietly speaking words of hope and love. We continue to speak words suggesting that human community is important and vital for the whole. We continue to remind ourselves that the environment is part of God's creation and is not separate but integral to life as we know it. We continue to change our habits of consumption because it makes a difference to the creatures, plants and people around the world. We continue to advocate for the poor and the oppressed, to speak words of hope and love in the places where greed and dominance hold sway.

We continue to persist in speaking words of hope and love because of the Easter blessing of life. While we may live in "interesting times," Easter is the constant backdrop of our living. Life has the last word. God's gift of abundant life to all has the last word, perhaps the only word!

When I get down about the state of the Church or the world, I remember the teaching of Jesus that love is the only way that makes sense. I remember the gift of Easter, that life finds a way to flourish and blossom. In the wonder and mystery of Easter, I remember most importantly, that the success of the Church isn't dependent on me or you, but upon us together working with God in continuing to speak of hope and love. When I remember these things, I know that we will find a way through these "interesting times" and that our own congregation will find the leadership and energy to continue to speak words of hope and love.

May the promise of Spring blossom in your hearts and may the Easter surprise bless you.

David

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time. ~Martin Luther

## ***Nelson United Church Seeks New Purpose Statement***

### **Steps taken**

From Re-Imaging Team to Council to AGM  
At AGM Council listens to lively discussion  
Council meets and reviews feedback  
Council comes to a consensus  
Revised proposed Purpose Statement:

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



### **Steps yet to be taken**

Your Feedback re the revised Purpose Statement at the  
June Congregational Meeting

Please send your comments regarding this statement to Christine ([nuc-dudley@telus.net](mailto:nuc-dudley@telus.net)) and/or David ([nuc@telus.net](mailto:nuc@telus.net)). Please note that the statement will be part of a larger document that says something about our history and something about what we value.

### ***Upcoming Services and Events***

*Monday, April 18 - 7pm..... Lent Series:*  
*[Pathfinding](#) Fairview Room*

*Thursday, April 23 - 7pm..... Maundy Thursday Communion*

*Friday, April 24th - 7 pm..... Good Friday Service*

*Sunday April 26th - 10 am... Easter Sunday Service and Holy Communion*

*Sunday May 1 - 10 am..... Worship Service*

*Sunday May 1 - 7 pm..... Taizé Service*

*May 3 (12:00 to 2:00) ... Hungry Bowls Lunch*

*Wed, May 4th - 9:30 am*  
*Lakeside Village..... Springtime Bible Study*

*Sunday May 8 - 10 am..... Worship Service*

## **C H U R C H S I G N S**

Try Jesus -

If you don't like him, the Devil will  
take you back!

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WE ARE THE SOUL AGENTS  
IN THIS AREA  
-----

***All services are different.....  
we leave repeats to TV***

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**God - You're Great!**  
-----

2000 years old and still under  
the Maker's Guarantee

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As you pass this little church be  
sure to plan a visit.  
So when at last you're carried in,  
God won't say "Who is it?"

## PRESBYTERY REPORT     March 2011

Theme: “Gifting our Life Together – Spiritual Gifts are Meant for the Common Good”

Your Presbytery team met in Invermere, March 18-20. Attending were David and Christine, Peter, Leah, and Robin as Koolaree Representative. There is still a vacancy for one more representative from Nelson. No youth were present at this meeting because of the 2-week Spring Break. We missed them.

We just made it to Invermere in time to participate in the afternoon team meetings, a very productive time. Following a delightful evening meal, preliminary business was concluded and we moved on to opening worship led by Trinity United Church in Creston. Therese Descamps led us in some interesting activities to do with the benefits of healing prayer. She also talked about discussions between scientists and religious leaders, and how these discussions are becoming more frequent and more often resulting in a meeting of minds.

After opening worship led by Camp Koolaree on Saturday morning, the theme continued. Morning and afternoon sessions included team updates and discussions. The Justice and Peace team emphasized that donations for Japan Relief could be channeled through the Mission and Service fund. The Education and Students Team reported on several important events and appointments. The Reverend-Doctor Therese Descamps will be received as a minister of the United Church of Canada at the Penticton, BC Conference meeting; approval was given for Alice Watson to serve a diaconal internship in Saskatchewan and an amount of \$1000 was approved to assist with her studies; a further course for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders was discussed.

Our own Jody Dudley has agreed to act as webmaster for the Kootenay Presbytery website. Members of Presbytery were asked to provide Jody with reports.

The Support to Congregations team, of which Christine, Peter and Leah are members, did a dramatic presentation concerning the upcoming sermon-writing workshop at Nelson March 25-26, and the God-Centered Conversations event at Trail, April 8-10. This will be a wonderful event featuring Christina Baldwin and Ann Linnea.

The budget for 2011 was presented and accepted. The next two Presbytery meetings were announced as Fernie on October 14, and Kimberly on April 12, 2012. Pastoral Charges agreed to make a digital projector available to Presbytery meetings for PowerPoint presentations.

George Meier, Conference Minister, talked about team-building workshops, and focused on the Minister's Retreat at Dutch Harbour, April 26-28.

The Reverend Alan Hall from General Council in Toronto spoke on revisions to the United Church Manual and mentioned the fact that 18 positions have been cut from General Council.

Jeff Seaton provided theological reflections before another excellent dinner, and members of Rock Lake Camp led evening worship.

Several of us participated in the church choir on Sunday morning and we enjoyed the service led by the Reverend Katherine Hough, the interim Anglican priest for the Windermere Valley Shared Ministry.

As always, we were hosted and fed royally.

*In Christ, Christine, David, Leah, Peter and Robin.*

### *More of Life's Lessons:*

- *You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.*
- *Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.*
- *'I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.'*

### **God-Water**

God-Water  
at creation  
springing forth  
life is born.

in Bethlehem's night  
from Mary's womb  
Christ is born.

in Jordan's water  
Christ immersed  
Love goes forth.

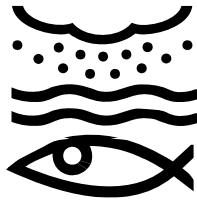
at Jacob's well  
Samaritan woman  
Love is believed.

in upper room  
feet are washed  
anointed to love .

God-Water  
in the tomb  
Easter.  
Loves wins.

God-Water flows and flows  
and flows.

*Written by Carol Prochaska*



### **The Consultant and the Fisherman**

A management consultant, on holiday in a African fishing village, watched a little fishing boat dock at the quayside. Noting the quality of the fish, the consultant asked the fisherman how long it had taken to catch them.

"Not very long." answered the fisherman.

"Then, why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the consultant.

The fisherman explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The consultant asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, have an afternoon's rest under a coconut tree. In the evenings, I go into the community hall to see my friends, have a few beers, play the drums, and sing a few songs..... I have a full and happy life." replied the fisherman.

The consultant ventured, "I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you..... You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat. With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have a large fleet. Instead of selling your fish to a middleman, you can negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to a city here or maybe even in the United Kingdom, from where you can direct your huge enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the fisherman.

"Oh, ten, maybe twenty years." replied the consultant.

"And after that?" asked the fisherman.

"After that? That's when it gets really interesting," answered the consultant, laughing, "When your business gets really big, you can start selling shares in your company and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?" pressed the fisherman.

"After that you'll be able to retire, move out to a small village by the sea, sleep in late every day, spend time with your family, go fishing, take afternoon naps under a coconut tree, and spend relaxing evenings having drinks with friends..."



*Edna Whitely was honored at Whitewater Ski Hill Friends, family and fellow skiers enjoyed a 90th Birthday Cake.  
(at the end of Edna's skiing day)*

On April 3, 2002 The Nelson United Church, a member of the Nelson Food Coalition, opened its Food Cupboard doors under the direction of Tim Powell who coordinated the many volunteers working on our behalf. The number of persons using the food cupboard had overwhelmed the Church staff and Tim rose to the occasion.

On the Outreach Bulletin Board is a newspaper report and interview with Tim.

During the next thirteen months \$28,312.02 was donated by the citizens of Nelson, Members of Nelson United Church, and Nelson UCW. The UCW and Nelson United Church folk donated a whopping 49% of the funds received.

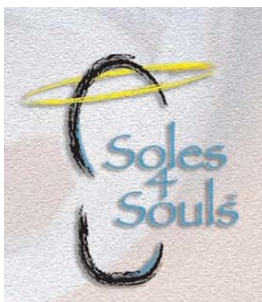
Lorraine Mackie was the treasurer who completed the accounting for the Food Cupboard and drew the last cheque on the account for 6,921.20 payable to the Nelson Food Coalition who assumed responsibility for the Food Cupboard.

In recognition his of exemplary service on your behalf as well as the people of Nelson. Tim Powell was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Projected Revenue for the Nelson Food Cupboard for 2011 is 108,974.00, 40,000, of which comes from the community of Nelson. The congregation of NUC and the UCW continue to excel in their support of this important resource.

The Nelson Food Cupboard Board of Directors extends its thanks to the congregation of Nelson United Church for their continuing outstanding support of the Food Cupboard

Peter Busby  
Secretary  
Nelson Food Cupboard Society



Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from warehouses of footwear companies and the closets of people like you. They distribute these shoes, free of charge, to people in need around the world. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has given away over 7 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes. The shoes have been distributed in 125 countries, including Haiti, Kenya, Nepal and the United States. Visit [www.giveshoes.org](http://www.giveshoes.org) for more information.

This is a Rotary supported project. If you wish to donate new or lightly used shoes, fasten pairs together with elastic, and drop off (before the end of April) at Mark's Work Warehouse.



The Mustard Seed is the official newsletter of Nelson United Church

Editor: Kathy Baker

Next edition deadline: June 2nd

Please submit articles to the church office or e-mail [tkbaker@shaw.ca](mailto:tkbaker@shaw.ca)

Visit Nelson United Church website at: [www.nelsonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.nelsonunitedchurch.ca)

Webminister: Jody Dudley



Springtime Bible Study  
 Hebrew Scriptures: Book of Ruth  
 Three Sessions  
 May 4, 11 & 18

Wednesdays 9:30am -10:30am  
 Bistro Room, Lakeview Village (1020-7th  
 Street)  
 Facilitator: Rev. Carol Prochaska (ret.)

**WARNING!!**

- Found on a butane lighter: "Warning: Flame may cause fire."
- Found on the instruction sheet of a Conair Pro Style 1600 hair dryer: "WARNING: Do not use in shower. Never use while sleeping."
- Found on Axius Sno-Off Automobile Windshield cover: "Caution: Never drive with the cover on your windshield."
- Found on a box of Kellogg's Pop-Tarts: "Warning: Pastry Filling May Be Hot When Heated"
- "Not for weight control." -- *On a pack of Breath Savers.*



Beginning in May, there will be an opportunity for you to "subscribe" to an email edition of the Mustard Seed, and a new church item called "NUCNews".

The Mustard Seed you are already familiar with, will be emailed to you upon publication in a "pdf" format for your "on line" reading pleasure.

NUCNews is a short news email to announce or remind us of events and activities occurring in the life of our community in a more timely way.

Initially, those who have already provided their email to the Church Office will be contacted by email inviting you to be on this

subscription list. If we do not have your email in our records or for those who would like to subscribe but have not already provided your email address to the Church Office, contact Jody Dudley (dudley@mac.com) or Donna Strongman (dlstrongman@shaw.ca) to have your name and email address added to this list. Alternatively, there will be a Subscription Link on the Church Website and you can "sign up" at any time. If you decide not to receive the Church news by email there is an easy "unsubscribe" process available on every email contact.

Because this list is controlled by people you know (and trust, I hope) we assure you that your email on this list will not be used for any other purpose.



naramata centre



**Program Focus Areas**

**Leadership Development** Support, tools and inspiration for people to develop authentic leadership ... to make a Spirit-filled difference in the world.

**Spiritual Nurture** Accompaniment, resources and learning for people who are seeking to deepen their spiritual journey.

**Healing Pathway** Training and mentoring for people to develop the gift of healing within the Christian tradition; development and support for healing ministries in congregations and communities.

**Just Community** Opportunities for networking, sharing resources and community building to support faith-filled living and work.

*For program details go to: [www.naramatacentre.net](http://www.naramatacentre.net)*



# Kid's Page



## Eggshell Mosaic

### What you'll need:

- Eggshells
- Food colouring
- Paper/plastic cups or containers
- Paper towels
- Construction paper  
(use flat if doing a picture or folded for a card)
- Liquid glue
- Crayons or markers (optional)
- Plastic or rubber gloves (optional)
- Pencil



### Directions:

1. Carefully wash out the eggshells. Remove the thin membrane that clings to the shell.
2. Mix the food colouring with water in the containers you're using. For bolder colours, use more food colouring.
3. Drop the eggshells in the food colouring. The eggshells will take on a darker tint the longer you leave them in the containers.
4. When the eggshells are sufficiently tinted, remove them from the containers and place the shells on the paper towels to dry. (You may want to use gloves for this!)
5. When the shells are dry, crumble them into small pieces. A slightly larger piece will give you more of a mosaic look.
6. If doing a card, complete the inside first and then decorate the outside.
7. Use the liquid glue to make a design on the paper (or lightly draw a design in pencil first, and then cover it with glue).
8. Sprinkle the broken shells on the glue and the design will emerge!  
Children may want to use crayons or markers to write their name, or to dedicate their picture to someone.

