



The Mustard Seed

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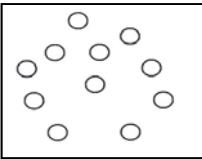
Canadian Multiculturalism Day June 27th

On November 13, 2002, the Government of Canada, by Royal Proclamation, designated **June 27** of each year as **Canadian Multiculturalism Day**.

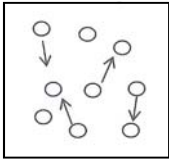
Canadian Multiculturalism Day is an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and our commitment to democracy, equality and mutual respect and to appreciate the contributions of the various multicultural groups and communities to Canadian society.

The United Church of Canada has committed itself to becoming an intercultural church. The United Church intentionally chose "intercultural" instead of "multicultural" to describe our vision of beloved community. Multiculturalism can be a simple celebration of food, fun, and festivals of different cultures while being relatively unchanged. Interculturalism, however, is a deep commitment to dialogue and power shifts among and between cultural group, interactions, engagement, and transformation of all God's peoples. On Multiculturalism Sunday, and throughout the year, we can remember our commitment to becoming an intercultural church community with God's grace.

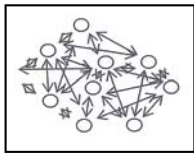
<http://www.united-church.ca>



In multicultural communities we live alongside one another. We value tolerance, and celebrate one another's culturally distinctive cuisine, dress, music, dance and related outward expressions of culture. It usually requires only superficial and polite social interchange.

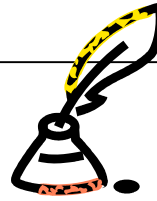


In cross-cultural communities there is some reaching across boundaries. We try to build bridges of relationship between our cultural communities by sharing, listening, learning, and being open to changing. It usually requires intentionality, and programs of education and community building.



Our social structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, mutuality, respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peace-making, and celebration. Intercultural community hopes to take us deeper than multicultural or cross-cultural models of community.

From David's Desk



I was visiting a friend recently (since the Canucks beat the Sharks to reach the Stanley Cup finals) and she was displaying a Vancouver Canucks flag on her car. Surprised that she was a hockey fan, I asked her about the flag; she said something like, "I'm not a big hockey fan, but I like the goodwill generated by all of this positive energy surrounding the Canucks."

I thought of my friend's comment about the goodwill generated by the appearance of the Canucks in the Stanley Cup finals as I was listening to the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Legge at the recent BC Conference General Meeting. Dr. Legge talked about the need for Christians to form "communities of the heart" in which we display "mature joy" (joy in the midst of pain and struggle) and shift from charity through service to justice. It was the "communities of the heart" image that stuck with me and resonated with my friend's desire to be involved with this positive energy in BC these days.

The image of "communities of the heart" is based on the idea that members of Christian community know each other at deep levels—at levels of the heart, in which our humanity is open and known. "Communities of the heart" "seek justice, resist evil, and live with respect in creation." (United Church Creed)

Dr. Legge suggested that becoming a "community of the heart" is the way forward for churches that are somewhat lost in this changing time. In "communities of the heart," more than just being inclusive, people know each other as sister/brother. It isn't a matter of

"accepting" one another; it is a matter of being one with each other.

Listening to Dr. Legge affirmed for me that we are on the right track here at Nelson United with our proposed purpose statement—*We dare to live the Way of Jesus, embodying the Love of God.* I believe that our change in constitution is also part of this new track, if it can be a constitution that captures how we want to be with one another and how we will live together—stay tuned for more about this.

On a very personal note, I want to conclude my comments by thanking Christine for her presence and ministry among and with us these past 11 years. Christine has reminded us of what it means to be part of a "community of the heart" and I wish her well as she takes up a new ministry with the people of Kimberley United Church. Christine and I have come at some things from different perspectives and I have been enriched by her challenge and our learning together.

"Thank you, Christine, for your gentle and passionate concern for life and ministry in our community, for your emphasis on being community together, and for your friendship to me. Thank you, too, Jody, for all that you have done "behind the scenes" to enliven and deepen love in our community. Blessings to you both as you make a new beginning in Kimberley; we shall watch from a distance and trust that you will know of our love and support."

Blessings,
David



The Mustard Seed is the official newsletter of Nelson United Church

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Please submit articles to the church office or e-mail: tkbaker@shaw.ca

Visit Nelson United Church website at: www.nelsonunitedchurch.ca

Webminister: Jody Dudley

Christine's Corner



***“For every ending there is a beginning
and the promise and mystery of new life.”***

These are the words which began my first Mustard Seed article 11 years ago when I was newly settled in ministry at Nelson United Church. These are words which, in my life experience, I have found to be true.

In this *threshold* time, between what is now and what will be, it is important to remember that God is present in all our experiences and that in the power of God's energizing spirit new life emerges and flourishes in ways that we can barely imagine.

At our last NUC Council meeting I was excited about the possibilities for God's spirit emerging in ways that can bring vitality and renewal to the ministry of Nelson United Church. At the same time I was feeling sad that I wouldn't be part of that process. I am proud of the ministry that we've done together in my eleven years in Nelson and I give thanks to all of you for all that we have been and done together.

I believe the time is ripe for Nelson United Church to explore where God is leading and to discern what ministry gifts and skills are needed to embark upon the next years as a community of faith.

I have learned much from all of you in my years of ministry in Nelson. At times there has been great joy and at other times great sadness. There have been tremendous challenges and also surprising gifts of grace. But always, there have been faith and hope and love. I am grateful that my time serving in ministry with you has made me a more able minister, a wiser person and sincere friend.

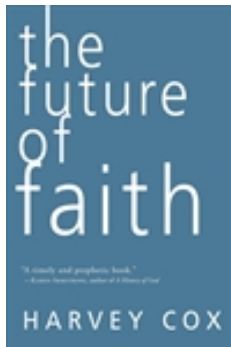
In this, my last Mustard Seed article, I leave you with a poem that I have turned to many times in the past few years. It speaks of hope and the promise of new Life. I offer it as my blessing for Nelson United Church as you discern where God is calling you, as individuals, and as a community of faith.

***Living and moving and being
between two worlds
in a space where the old is no longer
and the new is not yet,
hearing the Deep sigh
in awe of its own sacred possibility,
we exhale. And wait.
Listening. In faith.
And just as the dusk hushes the sounds of day
and ushers in the soft stillness of night,
so Dawn sings light through the dark,
filling the sigh with the promise of life.
And somewhere between
the Deep sighing
and the Dawn singing,
we draw a fresh clean breath
and take our next first step
in the Rising as new life.***

(The Threshold Breath, by the Rev. Valerie Oden)

Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes. ~Henry David Thoreau

BOOK REVIEW



Legendary Harvard religion scholar Harvey Cox offers up a new interpretation of the history and future of religion. Cox identifies three fundamental shifts over the last 2,000 years of church history:

The Age of Faith was when the early church was more concerned with following Jesus' teachings than enforcing what to believe about Jesus.

The Age of Belief marks a significant shift-between the fourth and twentieth centuries-when the church focused on orthodoxy and right beliefs.

The Age of the Spirit, that began in the 1960s and is shaping not just Christianity but other religious traditions today, is ignoring dogma and breaking down barriers between different religions. Spirituality is replacing formal religion.

Reflecting on how his own faith journey mirrors these three historical shifts, Cox personalizes the material in a compelling, practical ways. The Future of Faith is a major statement by one of the most revered theologians today.

A SUMMER PARABLE

Now it came to pass that, as the time of vacation drew near, a certain member of the Church bethought him of cool streams where fish were found, and his children thought of sandy beaches by the sea, and his wife thought of the mountains. And this church member spoke and said, "Lo the hot days come and my work lieth heavy upon me. Come. Let us depart and go where fishes bite, and where cool winds bring refreshment and the land is beautiful."

"Thou speakest words of wisdom", said his wife. "Yet three, nay even four things must be done ere we go."

"Three things I think of, but not a fourth," said her husband; "that we ask our neighbours to minister unto the flowers, that we arrange for our grass to be mowed and watered, that we have our mail forwarded; but no other thing cometh to my mind."

"The fourth is like unto the other three but greater than all:, said his spouse, "even this, that thou dig into thy purse and pay the Church pledge, in order that the good name of the Church may be preserved, and the heart of the treasurer be made glad, and that it may be well with thee. For verily I say unto thee, thou hast more money than thou wilt have when thou dost return."

And the husband replied, "Verily, thou art noble and wise among women." And he did pay his pledge for the summer. And it was so.

Submitted by the Stewards and Finance Committee

Interesting facts

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump

No word in the English language rhymes with 'MONTH.'

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language

NELSON UNITED CHURCH PURPOSE STATEMENT (PROPOSAL)

“We dare to live the Way of Jesus, embodying the Love of God.”

You will recall that at the Annual General Meeting there was an animated discussion about the proposed purpose statement for our congregation. There was broad consensus about the statement, with a request that Council do some further work with it and bring it back to the congregation for approval. Council and interested folk met in April to discuss changes and came up with the proposed statement above. Council, at its May 24th meeting, recommended the statement for discussion and approval at a **congregational meeting on June 26th** immediately following worship.

Purpose statements are important for congregations for the following reasons:

- A purpose statement clearly and succinctly articulates God’s call to a congregation as discerned at a given moment in time.
- A purpose statement gives shape, direction and meaning to ministry.
- A purpose statement creates unity, excitement and energy for living more fully as followers of Christ.
- A purpose statement provides a framework for implementing programs of ministry with respect to reaching out, education, spiritual formation, being community together, worship, pastoral care, and administration.

Following from the above reasons for having a purpose statement for our congregation, you are invited to reflect on the following questions, which will be discussed at the June 26th congregational meeting:

- ~ What does it mean to you and to our congregation to “dare to live the Way of Jesus?”
- ~ What does it mean to you and to our congregation to “embody the Love of God?”
- ~ If implemented, what new things might you imagine us doing as Nelson United Church?

NUCNews

is a periodic email report to announce NUC events in a timely manner. This is available to any one by "subscription" and will be emailed to your Mail In Box.

The Mustard Seed will continue to be published as usual and will continue to provide more detailed reports and activities relevant to Nelson United Church. A "PDF" edition will be emailed to all subscribers.

Nelson United Church will not release your email address to any other email list, or use it for any other purpose.

You will have the option everytime you receive a NUCNews email to "unsubscribe" or control your account information.

To subscribe go to: www.nelsonunitedchurch.ca/nucNewssubscribe/Subscribe.html

A Hot Summer Day



I lie in the field
jiggle and skoot
until my body
fits the formation
of the wombwarm earth.

Gregorian insects drone,
saffron buddist bees
intone prayers.

Hazy
fractured sunbeams
heat them
to melodious fever
as I practice eternity.

by Carol Allen



**Saturday,
June 18th 9am
Nelson United Church**

- A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
- A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

***"Keep the Date! Mark July 24th on your calendar for a special celebration at church"
.....watch for details!***

Joint Needs Assessment Committee

At the last Council meeting the following people were appointed to the Joint Needs Assessment Committee:

Rachel Berg
Wendy Steed
Margaret Stacey
Dirk Jonker
Liz Knox
Mildred Anderson
Judy Cameron
Roy Nelson

Council thanks these people for coming forward to do this important work on behalf of our congregation.

Camp Koolaree Work Party Dates

June 4th, June 6th, June 13th

Meet at MacDonald's Landing at 6 Mile, at 10:00 am;
return to MacDonald's Landing at 3:00 pm
Bring food and drink. Dogs are welcome.

Also, 80th Anniversary Celebration happening June 18, 2011 - meet at MacDonald's Landing at 10:00 am, return to MacDonald's Landing whenever you're ready. Food and fun provided.

KAKUA PAMOJA "MOVES ON"

"Kakua Pamoja" (Kiswahili language of East Africa, for "Growing Together"), is still growing and moving on, in the desperately poor, yet eternally hopeful slums of Nairobi, Kenya! It is a variety of projects instigated and facilitated by a young, committed and enthusiastic Nelson woman, Jamie MacBeth. NUC Outreach has supported her fundraising efforts and helped to coordinate power point presentations for the NUC congregation, a luncheon assisted by Caritas, and sales of crafts made by African artists, during 2010.

Despite some trying situations, and the corruption prevalent in many countries where inflation runs at 20% and poverty in the country is rampant, Jamie has risen above disease, death and concerns for her physical safety, to continue to work with predominantly young people, in the slums of Kangemi. She facilitates 2 girls' education and empowerment groups, a daily feeding program that reaches an average of 120 kids and employs 7 women to prepare and distribute the food, and yoga programs. She also does 3 pre-natal programs, and enlists the help of 2 of her former students.

These activities and programs cost \$1500/month to implement. It is a struggle with the rising costs of food and transportation, to maintain these activities. Although being a "1 woman charity" has its limitations, it also has the advantage of perceiving a need on the ground, and being able to immediately respond without bureaucracy and administration costs of most NGO's. (Therefore, a "good bang for your development charity buck", and donations and tax receipts can be issued through NUC)

Please consider supporting Kakua Pamoja, and joining our small but motivated NUC Outreach group, in the Fall of 2011!! We'll miss the valued input of Christine and Jody Dudley, but offer our thanks and wish them the best in Kimberly!! Have a Happy "summer recess!!" (Think "sun and fun!!")

submitted by Marion Bergevin

COMMUNION SURVEY RESULTS



In its ongoing effort to receive feedback about the worship life of Nelson United Church, the Worship and Music Committee conducted a survey in late February to gain information about the present Communion practices. Participants were asked about the preferred frequency of Communion, the favoured method of serving Communion, and any health concerns anyone might have about these methods. Sixty four responses were received, and the results are as follows:

Preferred frequency:

Weekly 5

Bi-weekly 1

Monthly 56

Method of serving:

Intinction: (Taking a piece of bread and dipping it in a chalice of juice) 58

Taking a piece of bread and having juice poured in a small glass: 6

Health concerns?

Yes 8

No 56

As a result of this information, the Worship and Music Committee have decided on the following:

1. Continue to serve Communion on a monthly basis, as well as on special occasions such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter and Pentecost.
2. Offer both intinction and the opportunity to have juice poured into a small glass.
3. Offer cut up bread, or the option to tear a piece of bread off the common loaf.

The Worship and Music Committee thanks all those who participated in the survey, answering the questions and including their thoughtful comments. We continue to encourage feedback on all our worship practices

*A woman has the last word in any argument.
Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.*

Report: BC Conference Meeting, May 26-29, 2011
Theme: "...Then Your Light Shall Rise": Isaiah 58:10

Clergy and Presbytery representatives, including about 80 children and youth, travelled across BC to Penticton for the 81st General Meeting of BC Conference. Approximately 400 were in attendance at the Penticton Convention Centre.

Thursday evening, we were greeted by members of the First Nations Penticton band, and welcomed to their traditional land ...Turtle Island. Their presentation was most gracious, in addition to being informative and engaging.

Marilyn Legge presented the first part of four lectures on the themes of faithful public witness, eco-social ethics, and intercultural relations as they relate to the United Church. The related workshops were thought-provoking and enlightening. Reverends Ric Matthews and Sandra Severs, newly appointed to First United Church in Vancouver, spoke passionately about their ministry to the downtown East Side. They distributed material on organizational and emotional phases of change, models based on Bridges and Gestalt theory, and applicable to change in any organization.

Less than one-third of the time at BC Conference was allotted to completing the actual business of conference. Important justice, environmental, camping and education issues were placed before the court but, due to time constraints, several were referred to the executive committee for action. Some participants thought they had been disenfranchised by this failure to allocate sufficient time for discussion and group decision-making. Ask us about the Camp Futures Program, ending Fall 2011.

Some of the important issues included:

That social justice issues consistently be included on the Conference agenda

That only certified ethically raised meats be eaten at future Conference gatherings

That campus ministries at UVic and UBC be fully funded

These issues were fully discussed and resolved at conference. Seven others were referred to conference executive. An interesting point is that issue number 2 was presented by the youth of conference, who spoke eloquently in support of their motion, accepted defeat of their motion graciously, and subsequently presented a revised, more comprehensive proposal for future consideration.

Conference held many delightful moments. The children and youth led worship on several occasions, interviewed conference staff and delegates throughout the weekend, and produced videos for the enjoyment of all those present. These two groups of young people exhibited boundless energy and enthusiasm throughout. A highlight was Sunday worship with Linnea Good, her back-up musicians and massed choir; and the ordination, commissioning, recognition and acceptance of ten people into United Church of Canada Ministry. The Reverend Doctor Therese DesCamps, formerly a United Church of Christ minister, was welcomed into United Church ministry. She resides in Kootenay Presbytery.

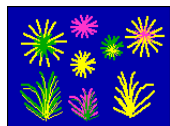
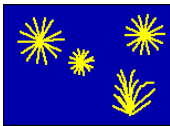
Yours in Christ: Christine, David, Leah and Peter

Kid's Page

Create your own fireworks picture by using dark construction paper, glue and different colors of glitter. These fireworks pictures are great decorations for Canada Day.

Supplies:

- Black or very dark construction paper
- Glitter
- White glue
- Old newspapers
- A straw (optional)



- Work on old newspapers. Spread glue on the construction paper in geometric shapes.
- If the glue is soft enough, you can put a small blob of glue on the paper, and then blow some air through a straw to spread it into interesting shapes. You can experiment with the consistency of the glue and the angle of the straw.
- Sprinkle glitter onto the glue. Slide the excess glitter off your picture and back into the glitter container.
- Repeat the glue and glitter process with different colors of glitter.
- Let the glue dry.

