



The Mirror

Reflections on the life and work of Como Lake United Church February 2015

Congregational AGM

On February 8th, 66 people attended the Annual General Meeting of Como Lake United Church.

Highlights of the meeting were:

- 2014 Congregational givings were very close to target;
- The Treasurer announced a surplus in 2014;
- The 2015 budget is very close to 2014; and
- A presentation on the process to discern our future and an update on the Property Repurposing Team that came out of that process.

A brief financial review is included in this mailing. and copies of the non-financial reports are available at reception.

Discerning Our Future

Last year the Official Board asked Session to develop a longer term vision and strategy for the future of Como Lake. The leaks in the parking garage, our aging volunteer base and the need to determine our staffing needs before replacing Sue Rodgers were the drivers.

Realizing that this was a task requiring a broader cross section of the congregation, Session contracted with a facilitator, Tim Scorer, and put out a call for people interested in participating in a discernment process to look at the future direction of our church.

Twenty three church leaders gathered for four Saturday workshops between May and January. The majority of those leaders attended all of the gatherings; a few took part in only one or two sessions. The overall experience was enlightening, thought provoking and spirit driven.

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Lent 2015

Lent is a time when we can intentionally re-boot with God – and redirect our sights and our heart from where we have been off track. Lent is a call to turn to God, the One who loves us and calls us to bring our best selves for blessing – and our broken selves for forgiveness, healing and wholeness. The 40-day journey to the cross and empty tomb is to create the space for healing and transformation in our hearts and in our relationships. Join in with Worship, study, conversation, personal reflection and other practices on this path to new Life.

SoulQuest Lenten Faith Conversations

Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy:

Richard Rohr and the Legacy of St. Francis

Gatherings will include DVD presentation with Richard Rohr and Tim Scorer, discussion, reflection, and a prayer practice. Led by Rev. Jan Bihl

Thursday Evenings at 7 pm (in Room #120)

February 26, and March 5, 12, 19, 26

For ideas on personal ways we can connect with the themes of Lent, see page 2

Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd at 6 pm

Light meal, remembering the Last Supper and the commandment of Jesus to love one another (*in Room #120*)

Good Friday - April 3rd at 11 am

at Golden Ears United Church

An all-area United Churches gathering

Easter Sunday - April 5th at 10 am

Celebration and Communion

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**We are
Christ's caring community
connecting people with God
and with one another
answering God's call
and making a difference.**

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As Valerie Simpson told the Annual General Meeting, "The intentional process of looking at our needs in relation to staff and property is not NEW to us. We have looked at repurposing our space a few times in the last 90 years....From the first small worship space, to the building of the large sanctuary, to more than one add on or renovation all the way to the construction of the 1986 wing, a process that involved numerous members in discernment and in hands on hard work.

Tim Scorer came from Bowen Island to facilitate these sessions. He is a gifted group leader with an innate ability for linking Reflections and Actions, always cognisant of the centering force, our sustaining connection with God. A number of directions or possibilities emerged from these sessions and they will be the foundation for future congregational discussion and discernment. "

A Bulletin board has been set up with insights from the discernment sessions led by Tim and information about the newly formed Property Repurposing Team.

See more information on the Bulletin Board.

Thank You Mary Jane

Did you ever wonder who it was kept that Outreach Bulletin Board up to date and interesting? Who came up with the tidbits about First United, Mission and Service and Amnesty International? It was Mary Jane Lucas who was our one person Outreach Committee. We say was because Mary Jane is stepping down and her contribution will be missed. So the next time you see her say, "Thanks for a job well done!"

Jacquie Johnston has challenged us to show our appreciation by increasing our givings to M&S.

God at the Movies

Tuesday, February 24

Lilies of the Field

Tuesday March 24

Title to be announced

Tuesday April 21

Title to be announced

Come join us, enjoy the movie, and join the guided discussion, a chance to gain new insights in a safe environment.

Mark your calendar

Room 120

6:00 p.m.

Pop Corn supplied

Property Repurposing Team

The members of the Property Repurposing Team are Paul Nelson, Jacquie Johnston, Dave McCutcheon, Linda Hof, Rev. Jan Bihl and Valerie Simpson.

We have formally retained the services of Conference's Property Resource Team, led by Terry Harrison, with professional urban planning consultants, Justen Harcourt and Jane Hoe, from Colliers Consulting. We met with Terry and the Consultants on Feb 3rd to kick off our work together. They shared with us a project outline called "*The Six Stages of Development*". We got started immediately with Stage 1 (Values, Vision & Objectives), which we will continue working on throughout the process. The consultants are ready to embark on Stage 2 (Feasibility Study), during which they will research various redevelopment/repurposing options and analyze the viability and financial feasibility of each. They will keep us apprised of their progress as their work proceeds. We are aiming to have the results of the Feasibility Study ready to share with the Congregation by the end of April. In any event, we won't proceed to the next phase until the Feasibility Study is complete and the findings are shared with the congregation, who will then decide whether or not they want to move to the next Stage. This is very much a work in progress, and we've just begun. There is more information available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, but if you have any questions please talk to one of the members of the team.

Daily Personal Devotional

Grace and Peace: Devotions for Lent 2015

Copies at Reception while they last.

Suggestions for Online Lenten Reflection or Study:

Longing for Home – a United Church online study
www.united-church.ca

Daily Meditations by Richard Rohr

www.cac.org (available daily, throughout the year)

40 Acts: Change the World with 40 Acts of generosity and kindness - www.40acts.org.uk