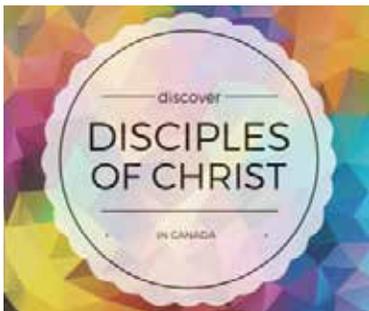


The Canadian Disciple



A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

Published :September 29, 2016 (Guelph, Ontario)



October Prayer Partners

Oct 2 Thanksgiving Special Offering to support Higher Learning in Canada

Oct 9 Hillcrest CC, Toronto, ON. Pastoral Team: Fred Dizon, Ann Stainton, Robert Steffer

Oct 16 West Gore Disciple Church, NS. Pastor: Gus MacDonald

Oct 23 Sugarbush CC, Guelph, ON. Pastor: Jen Garbin (& currently in search)

Oct 30 Familia Feliz, Laval, GC. Pastor Julia Rodriguez

Please keep in your prayers as well our Youth who will be attending Fall Weekend retreats in Nova Scotia and Ontario; the people of Windsor, ON who are in a flood state of emergency; refugees worldwide including those who are being resettled in Canada – may they find hospitality and safe haven; and please pray for our pastors who are serving in all kinds of capacities, active & retired, congregational & chaplains.

A Call to Prayer & Reflection

I have the best “job” in the world! No kidding...I am blessed beyond measure! I get to: worship with different congregations each week; meet faithful people who are excited and challenged by the Gospel and the work to which they are called; work with a Board that is ready, willing, and able to respond in love and wisdom to the changing needs of our context; and sit one-on-one with dedicated pastors and congregational leaders, share the burdens and blessings of this crazy call to ministry, listen to heart-felt needs and desires, and drink deep at the well of Christ’s love and hope.

This week alone I have been in conversation with pastors from across Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec, all serving in different contexts with different challenges, ideas, and concerns. We have talked about what it is like to be church in the Canadian context – from traditional expressions to new models that don’t look like anything we have known before. We have talked about scripture, and a deep desire to get back to the ‘spirit of the New Testament church’ where the Gospel was central and folks were less concerned with upholding traditions & keeping buildings open, and found their joy in digging deep into the well-spring of the good news of Jesus Christ and his way of being in this world.

What I have found most enlivening in all of these conversations, is a common thread: the desire & call as the church to provide opportunity for everyday people to encounter God in their lives. There has been no sense that we do this work of being the Body of Christ because we need somehow to preserve our traditions, or ensure our survival. There has been no hint of fear that somehow we don’t have a future, or that we are failing, or that we don’t have what we need to respond to God’s invitation to be co-creators in ministry. No. Instead these conversations have been about possibility, spiritual growth, new life, transformation, dedication, grace, joy, and hope.

I find that inspiring.

Friends, I hope you will join with me over the coming months of 2016 in a time of intentional prayer and reflection on what it means to be the Body of Christ together. Please pray in your homes, congregations, and communities that the Spirit may be free to work wonders through us, that we may reclaim God’s call to serve all people, all creation, not for our own benefit, but so that all might come to know the love of Jesus Christ and walk in his Way. May the coming weeks be dedicated to lifting up Christ’s church in Canada that we might be a blessing to all God’s children. Peace, Jen

"It Only Takes a Spark"



It only takes a spark to get a fire going. So it was with the first 'International' Disciples Camp Summit. Camp people from across the continent were invited by Regional Minister Bill Spangler-Dunning to come to Newton, Iowa to the regional

camp facility, Christian Conference Center, to discuss issues relevant to our DOC Outdoor Ministries. In other words, talk about camp at camp.

While this 'camp ground' has components of what we know as the Disciples Conference Grounds in Ontario, it has fully embodied the concept of a Conference Centre. They have the capacity to host multiple weddings, hotel style rooms, in house laundry, Wi-Fi, the Regional office, dormitory style 'cabins' with kitchenette, 6 different fire pits, 2 onsite staff + families, swimming pool, mini-golf, & the original rustic cabins more synonymous with camp. At any given time the CCC can host multiple family, different camper age, & community groups. This year round facility is a success due to excellent staff who promote & maintain the site. The philosophy of the development of this site includes the Regional members in planning and to only build when money is available for the whole project. The Regional members have stepped up and made the funds available to be able to continually rejuvenate the facility with new, modern, accessible buildings. The old is intermingled with the new as special pieces of closed churches grace the new chapel facility. It was a joy to have the opportunity to visit this awesome place. It still feels like camp with that warm, welcoming embrace of a lush canopy, manicured lawns, starry skies and the essential glow of a communal campfire. The CCC has the capacity to create community where everyone is welcome, a fundamental DOC principle.

As amazing as the facilities are, the reason for the Summit was more inspiring: the opportunity to come together with other passionate 'professional' campers to discuss program, facility, funding, policy, challenges, successes and to network. Here in Canada with our expansive Region it is challenging to find that sense of community for

ourselves that we aspire to provide for all of the campers who pass through our holy grounds. The Summit provided that community opportunity for DOC Outdoor Ministry workers, professionals & volunteers of all kinds. Bill, our host, and Michael Davison, Assoc RM (Oklahoma), provided a balance of organized discussion (disguised as a game of Jeopardy) and informal discussion before, during and after meals, morning watch, evening campfires, and the ever popular 'after hours.' All these moments served to foster the sense of community and renew our passion for camp. Positive energy is infectious. Our networking allowed face to face time to discover that geography and facility may create unique identities for our camps, but fundamentally we all deal with the same successes and challenges on the frontlines.

During a casual conversation, I lamented that my little camp in Canada was only welcoming a small number of campers. A fellow 'Summit' camper observed that, based on the number of congregations in our area, we are a great success. While our camp has a long way to go, upon reflection I have to agree. Sometimes it takes a different perspective to fully appreciate our circumstance. In Canada, we cannot boast the large numbers of supporting congregations, but looking at percentage participation we are holding our own. This Summit has left me eager to explore other DOC facilities to 'see how they do it' and apply ideas suitable to DCG that have been successful at other campgrounds. At the inaugural Camp Summit, those present found it so helpful to discuss camp with other DOC and to create relationships between our Regions that the event has been penciled in for next Fall. The hope is that more camp people will be drawn to the glow of the gathering. We all strive to create a camp community with diversity, but that can only happen when the doors are open to all. The more voices that participate in the conversation only serve to enrich the experience for everyone. So if camp is your passion, plan to come to the 2nd Camp Summit to be held Sept 2017 in Newton, Iowa. Come warm up to its glowing....Pass it on.

-- Sarah Leitch OACC Disciples Conference Grounds Camp Manager, Sweets Corners, Ontario

Lessons On Following Christ from Encounter Youth

During our All Canada Convention, two of the Encounter youth shared their reflections on the story of the disciples who went fishing again after Jesus' death, only to be discouraged, then re-encouraged when Jesus invited them to try a different way then join him for breakfast on the beach. Not only did two of the group bring messages, others sang, read scripture, led in prayer, and performed an innovative skit – a new take on the lessons learned on the beach: its okay when God leads us into new things...just trust and follow. Below are the reflections of Chloe Dungca and Michael Cuthbert, both of Broadway Disciples United Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Let's Go Fishing!



My name is Chloe Dungca and I am a member of Broadway Disciples United Church. This is my very first encounter and my first time in Nova Scotia. My stay here has been filled with memories that are unforgettable. As a group,

we have done mission work. At JCP, we hauled firewood from a wood shed, for the main hall, for other groups like us so that they could use it for heat or for camp fires. We scraped old paint from a 150 year old church in long island so that they could do some repainting. We picked blueberries in the hot sun to be given to the elderly congregation members in Milton Christian Church and Summerville Christian Church.

Aside from mission work we have been doing touristy things. We visited a light house at Prim Point, went to a canoe trip, went whale watching at the Atlantic Ocean, which was a very cool experience, and visited so many more sites here in Nova Scotia. One thing I was excited about was visiting a real beach, which we don't have in Winnipeg. In our gospel reading from John 21: 1-14, Jesus appears to his disciples not knowing who he was. He appeared on the beach. Not a beach here in Nova Scotia but the Sea of Tiberias. Even after

Jesus' disciples have seen Jesus' resurrection, they were disappointed, hopeless and lonely. So they decided to go back to their old ways. They went fishing. Even as experienced fishermen, it seems they cannot catch any fish. Like the disciples, sometimes we go back to our old ways when we're depressed, confused or lost hope. Sometimes instead of trusting in God, we depend on ourselves. But maybe through the gospel reading, God is telling us to keep our faith and trust in God and to try something new.

In my youth group at church, we made a big change. For a very long time, the youth group was led by one leader. It wasn't great because if they were busy or weren't around much, activities wouldn't get planned or things wouldn't get done. Instead of doing the same thing, we decided to form the youth group council with 5 members, myself included. What our youth group does is organize fundraisers, youth activities, bible studies, and youth led Sundays. So far we have made progress with getting the youth more involved in church activities and youth led worships on Sundays. We didn't know if it would work, but we had enough faith to try. And in our wider church, the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Canada, the gospel is a reminder that that we are being called to do something new. We are being called to have faith to do something we've never done and to believe that it is God who is calling us to do this new thing.

I was really surprised and happy to meet Pastor Jen as our new Regional Minister in Canada. She has so much energy and passion and love for God and our church. Already we are doing new things. There's a new website, an online blog, she has visited us in Winnipeg and other churches in Canada. With a new leader, there are new perspectives and ideas and I hope our church is ready to try something new and cast our nets of hope and faith on the other side.

I'm excited for our church in what we will do next. I hope that we can keep the traditions that make us who we are but still have faith to try something new. Let's go fishing! – Chloe Dungca, BDUC

God's Answer to Our Questions



There comes a point in life when sometimes we feel misguided. Sometimes we get angry that everything we have done has brought us a way we didn't think it would. Personally, my faith was on the edge of a pin; I had days where I would fully believe that

God was there making the whole world turn and God was the reason for everything, and then I had days where I didn't even want to think of the plausibility of God existing. From the perspective of my dad, a now retired minister, I was going through a rough time but God would show me a path even if it may not be what my dad would want. He's content with my decisions and does his best to help wherever he can.

The scriptures today talk about God and show just what God is truly capable of. The scripture taken from John today talks about Jesus providing fish for the fishermen. They fished one day and couldn't get anything. Jesus comes in without being recognized, and tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They did as Jesus said and they were met by a TON OF FISH. Not only did they get the fish, but their net didn't break. This was surprising. They weren't expecting it and one of Jesus' faithful followers finally recognized him and understood what happened. God provides. We don't need to beg God to give us something. God cares for us in a different way than just giving us what we ask.

I'm blessed with having a father also be a minister. Being a kid of a preacher is a very interesting experience. God always gives me a great answer to everything in the form of my dad. When I asked my dad difficult questions about why we believe, God provided him an excellent answer to give to me. But of course I was still having my faith wavering. Last year, my dad underwent surgery. This was a massive moment in my life. I love and respect my dad so much that I would be devastated if something bad happened to him so soon and before I could show him I can be successful too. I wasn't much for praying to God but when he went in for surgery, that night, I prayed. I made a promise to

not only myself, but to God, that if my dad would get out of the surgery perfectly fine, I would devote the rest of my life to God. If even the slightest thing compromised his health or worse, I'd be completely done with the idea of believing in any religion at all. The next day, my mom and I went to go see my dad in the hospital. There was medical equipment all over the place: there were tubes and other medical equipment everywhere. I looked at my dad. He put on a smile (as good as he could in his condition at the time) and said "Hi Mike" like he does at home. He was fine.

God will always be there when we need help. When we are weak and need some guidance. The scripture from Isaiah talks about God comforting His people: US! We should already know that God will always be caring and providing. Isaiah 40: 21 says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?" Isaiah 40: 29 says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

God's answer may not always be what you want, but any answer from God is better than absolute silence in our times of need. The answers we get from God won't always be what we want to hear. Sometimes we really don't like the answers we get. There may have even been times when you give up on waiting for an answer and God gives you one just as you lose hope. There is never a time when God isn't watching. I was just like the fishermen: I was down on my luck and feeling terrible until God gave me the strength to carry on and provided so much. Everyone here are like the fishermen, blessed by God. Even if God doesn't bestow blessings when we ask, God's help will always be very powerful and so comforting.

God cares for each and everyone of us. I was at a very low point in my life and God blessed me. When was the last time you were at a very low point in your life and needed God and got an answer that changed your life? God will always be there and will always be caring. God owes nothing to us but continues to bless us while we owe everything to God; the beautiful nature everywhere, the animals around us, and most importantly, all of us are here because of God. How does God provide for each of you? Amen.

– Michael Cuthbert, BDUC

Hellos & Goodbyes

Welcome to Our New Treasurer: For many moons now we have been searching for a Treasurer for our Region so that our long-time friend and faithful servant, Minnie, can take a much needed and hard earned retirement. So it is with much celebration that we are pleased to welcome EDWARD RIGG from Dunnville, Ontario as our new Treasurer! Edward is co-owner of Rigg Bookkeeping, and grandson of Minnie Rigg. He received his education at Niagara College, is a “techie” and “computer whiz,” and die-hard Toronto Maple Leafs fan. We welcome Edward to our team and are grateful to him for taking on the challenge of this important ministry. Please keep him in your prayers as he takes on the many tasks of the Treasurer’s office.

Farewell to Our Regional Administrator: It is with sadness that we announce that our friend and colleague, Ben Kidd, has resigned from his position as Regional Administrator effective the end of September. Ben has faithfully tried to keep the

administration of the Region on track over the past number of months, but feels a strong and persistent call to ministry in the military. We send Ben with many blessings on his ministry, his ongoing education, and his family. We look forward to keeping in touch as Ben deepens his relationship with the Disciples of Christ in Canada in other capacities. Thank you for your service to the Region and to God.

Farewell to Longest Living Canadian Disciple: We are sad to share that Gladys “Ruth” Fiander, age 105, of Liverpool, NS, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 22nd, 2016, in Queens Manor, Liverpool. She was a long-time member of Summerville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Summerville Centre, NS. She was a daughter of the late Bertram and Carrie (MacGowan) Huskins. Our condolences to all members of Ruth’s family. May God’s strength and comfort be yours today and always.<>

Prayers Needed: Alpha Has New Film Series for Youth & Adults

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
I am taking the plunge this fall! I cannot explain why, but I have always hesitated and been a little skeptical in using the Alpha program in the churches I have served. So, I never attempted it.

However, this year, my ecumenical youth group serving junior and senior high school students has decided to take part in the new alpha film series! So, I am on board to try it. We will be doing it throughout the Liverpool and Milton area with Anglican, Pentecostal, United, and Baptist churches also taking part.

In fact, many churches across Canada this year will be using the new film series that have been developed for youth and for adults. It is like a Christianity 101 and is designed for non-believers. You can check the series out at <http://www.alphacanada.org/>.

I wanted to write to ask for your prayers this fall that young people across the Liverpool, Nova Scotia, area might be encouraged to participate in the program. I am still a little skeptical, but I would appreciate prayers that those involved (whether a small or large number) might make new discoveries of faith and be encouraged to consider following the pathway of Christ.

And, for my part, I will write and let you know how this is going!

Warmest Wishes in Christ, Russell
Russell Prime serves as the volunteer national coordinator for youth and young adult ministries in Canada and is currently the minister of the Milton & Summerville Christian Churches in Nova Scotia

Address Changes for the Region

First off, thank you so much for your patience over the past number of months as we have sorted out stuff here in the Regional Office(s). We are now happy to announce that we have a permanent address for the corporation and finance areas (Dunnville), and a separate address for direct correspondence, etc for the Regional Minister (Guelph).

For remittances, tithes, offerings, and donations to the Region, kindly send to:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada
Attn: Edward Rigg, Treasurer
PO Box 265, Dunnville, ON, N1A 2X5

For correspondence, year book reports, and other non-financial matters, kindly send to:

Jennifer Garbin, Regional Minister
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada
86 Glasgow Street North, Guelph, ON, N1H 4W2

Please do NOT use the PO Box 72053, Coxwell/ Danforth PO address effective immediately.



General Announcements & Invitations

- Happy Anniversary to all of our congregations celebrating at this time of year! At the time of publication we are happy to share the following: Guelph Christian Church (Sept 25- 140 years); Mapleton Church of Christ (Oct 2- 166 years); Winger Church of Christ (Oct 30 – 172 years); McKernan Christian Church (November 6 – 65 years), Milton Christian Church (Nov 6 – 182 years). Send in photos and dates of your upcoming congregational anniversaries so they can be celebrated in the next *Canadian Disciple*.
- **Special offer from CHALICE PRESS:** Greetings to our Canadian sisters and brothers in Christ from Chalice Press / Christian Board of Publication! Our mission is to publish resources inviting all people into deeper relationship with God, equipping them as disciples of Jesus Christ, and sending them into ministries as the Holy Spirit calls them. **Special Offer for the Christian Church in Canada: Free shipping (up to \$20) when you order from Chalice Press!** Enter promo code CANADA16 at checkout. Offer good through January 31, 2017. You can order books from the full catalogue at our website, ChalicePress.com, or: Phone: 1-770-280-4026 or 1-800-366-3383 or Fax: 770-280-4039 or Email customerservice@chalicepress.com. Customer service reps are available to help you Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Central Time (**PLEASE NOTE:** website does not have shipping info for Canada so must call or email).
- To receive the Canadian Disciple in your email, please send your request to rm@canadadisciples.org or sign-up on our website www.canadadisciples.org.

Contact information for Rev Dr Jennifer Garbin:

Regional Minister Email: rm@canadadisciples.org

Regional Office Email: mail@canadadisciples.org

Phone: 519-826-5767 Text: 519-731-4629

Snail Mail: 86 Glasgow Street North, Guelph, ON, N1H 4W2

Regional Happenings

All kinds of awesome things are happening in our Region these days! Send in your photos with captions to let us know what is happening in your neck of the woods.



Sharing Anniversary Lunch with the good people of Guelph Christian Church (L-R : Althea S, Geri, Betty L, Sarah B, Helen, Charlie P, Jen). Happy 140th Anniversary!

Janet & Peter Fountain of Milton Christian Church (NS) pose with all the mission gifts collected at our recent All Canada Convention. In total we collected: Towels - large (25); Towels, small, and face cloths (25); Products, like sunscreen, soap, shaving stuff (21); Men's Socks (43 pair); Mugs (12); and Grocery Gift Certificates & Cash (\$295). A wonderful outpouring of compassion that is already benefitting some people in our local Liverpool area, and men and women connected with Metro Turning Point shelter program in Halifax. Thank you organizers and all who contributed!



ATTENTION YOUTH!

Fall Weekend is F-A-S-T Approaching in Nova Scotia and Ontario!!

NSCYF Fall Weekend

September 30 - October 2, 2016

Johnston Christian Park, South Range, NS
\$40

Ages 13-19

Don't Miss It!

Our special facilitator and theme leader will be Rev. Dr. Steve Hopper of the Liverpool and Brooklyn Churches, and we will be making use of some Alpha materials. Activity Theme: "Christmas" -- so enjoy Christmas Eve and Christmas Dinner!

Learning Theme: "The Holy Spirit"

Share with everyone! See you there!!

OCYF Fall Weekend

October 7-10, 2016

Disciples Conference Grounds, Sweets Corners, ON
\$40

Ages 13-19

Its Fall Fiesta again! Facilitators Jen Garbin & Drew Gillette have a fun-filled camping extravaganza ready for you and your friends. A great time away from it all to reconnect w friends, encounter God in nature, enjoy the season's last campfires, and have a chance to work

through the big questions of life and faith. Turkey Dinner included! Register online at <http://www.oacc-disciples.com/ocyf-fall-weekend/>

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