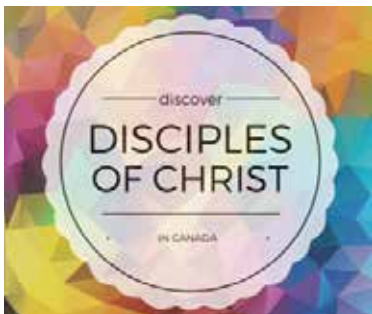


The Canadian Disciple



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

Published :October 14, 2016 (Guelph, Ontario)



October / November Prayer Partners

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

Oct 23 Sugarbush CC, Guelph,
ON. Pastor: Jen Garbin

Oct 30 Familia Feliz, Montreal,
QC. Pastors Carlos & Julia
Rodriguez

Nov 6 Winger Church of Christ,
Wainfleet, ON. Pastor : Kevin
McDonald

Nov 13 Wyndholme Christian
Church, Dartmouth, NS.
Pastors : Darlene Brewer, Neil
Bergman, Judithe Adam Murphy

Nov 20 Reconciliation Special
Offering

Nov 27 McKernan Christian
Church, Edmonton, AB. Pastor :
Ed Stover

Please keep in your prayers all
those affected by Hurricane
Matthew : Haiti and the rest of
the Caribbean, Cape Breton,
etc. As the weather starts to turn
colder, please pray for all those
who have no shelter.

“Some are Called to be Pastors”

In the last *The Canadian Disciple*, I put out a call to spend the remaining three months of 2016 in intentional prayer and reflection for Christ’s church here in Canada. I left the invitation and challenge broad, a “starter” for us as we focus on the persistent call by the Holy Spirit to nurture and grow our spiritual selves. Over the coming editions of this journal, we will highlight different aspects of life together & commit to lifting them up in prayer.

This week is “Ministry Week” across North America & highlights the special people we call “Pastor.” I will be the first one to declare that as Disciples of Christ, we are all called to the ministry of all believers. But we do have special folks who are set apart for the specific task of equipping, leading, & shepherding each of us in our work as bearers of the Good News.

A pastor’s life is not an easy one. Not only have these dedicated women & men spent considerable time in study to prepare themselves for ordination, they are required to continue their education throughout their ministry. They must meet rigorous ethical standards of conduct in both their ministry & personal lives. Often times, especially in small congregations, the pastor wears multiple hats: teacher, spiritual leader, administrator, counsellor, youth leader, Regional connector, life coach, resource person, janitor, secretary...the list goes on. The pastor’s life is a busy one, an isolating one, with many pastors across Canada reporting they have few close friends, are working more than 50 hours per week, & have little time for personal spiritual development, guidance, & reflection. Depression, stress, and anxiety levels among pastors are higher than in other populations. Many pastors live at or below the poverty line and retire with few resources for the future.

Yet for pastors, this is a labour of love, a call, a vocation. This is their service to God & Jesus Christ: to serve, shepherd, & love the people of their congregation. Most feel a strong sense of fulfillment & feel supported in their work, despite reporting this work is often too much for one person to handle alone. Recent studies from the United Church of Canada & the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, report that while pastors are dedicated to their work, knowing they have the support of the congregation & seeing that support enacted, is really the only successful way of addressing the isolation, stress, depression, & anxiety that many carry. So please pray for your pastor! Let them know you care & are praying for them. They are committed to you... how do you show them you are likewise committed to them? Give thanks for all of our pastors! May God’s grace, blessing, & peace rest on them always -Jen

When It's Hard to be a "Movement For Wholeness"

There is no easy way to share the news the Regional Office received last week that The Gathering Place received & voted on a motion that: "The Gathering Place in Ridgetown, Ontario withdraw our association from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Effective immediately."

These are heart-breaking words to type. The Gathering Place is one of Ontario's historic congregations & has been (& will continue to be until the end of the year) a significant supporter of the Area & camping program. Only two short years ago we all gathered & experienced their hospitality & welcoming spirit at the 2014 All Canada Convention. We know & love their community and have been inspired by the revitalization of their congregation. Please know that the Regional Board & I are grieving this action as much as anyone else. We have been in conversation with TGP in the hopes that we could find a way forward together. We know this decision was not an easy one for many in the congregation, and it is with deep sorrow and regret that we honour their decision.

In light of these & others over the past couple of years who have made the hard decision to go it alone, how do we proclaim to be a "movement for wholeness" when division enters into our fellowship? How do we sing songs of Christian unity when we are grieving the loss of brothers and sisters from the covenant we share?

I am reminded of Paul's encouragement & challenge to the church of Corinth: "*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.*" (2Cor 4:8-10) In the face of crisis, division, death, & confusion in his own time, Paul consoles not only the people he leads but himself, with words of hope and purpose. Being in intentional community together has never been easy. Being Christ's beloved community has always been a path wrought with trial, disagreement, hurt, & sacrifice. We are not always kind to one another. We often forsake the narrow path for the easier. We often put "being

right" ahead of "being love" and in the process unintentionally bring suffering upon ourselves. Our beliefs & our faith are so precious to each & everyone who seeks to follow the Risen Christ. So much so that we find ourselves torn between compromise & integrity, truth & relationship. We long to accept one another, but our egos, our essential selves, have such a hard time reconciling the truths we follow & the love we have for one another. It's not a new problem. There is no easy answer. I wish there was.

Through all the changes & challenges of being in covenant together, & especially during these times when one of our beloved communities decides to leave the table, we must remember that we all still carry within us the "the death of Jesus" – the message of reconciliation, hope, salvation, peace, for all. And in our living this message, despite & in spite of our divisions, we proclaim the life of Christ, the hope of resurrection, renewal, & re-membering. Although we feel broken & perplexed, let us not despair, but continue in prayer that one day we might truly be reconciled. Although we grieve the loss of fellowship of TGP, let us pray & work towards a day when all of Christ's children can sing with one voice: "we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord!"

I pray always that there will be a time, when the three streams of the Restoration Movement will come to the table together, recognizing that it belongs to no single group...but to the Living Christ. I pray that we will enter into conversation again, share joys & concerns, pray together, commune together, & celebrate our diversity, covenant together to be one body under the loving banner of Jesus Christ. Feel free to call me naive or a defiant optimist... but I cannot forsake the call to continue to work for greater unity. I believe in the one, holy, universal, & apostolic church; that the table we gather at is round and has no sides; and that God is reconciling us relentlessly & urgently to be bold & courageous in the face of anything that might threaten to tear us apart. I pray every blessing on TGP (indeed all congregations who have chosen to travel a different path) & hope for the day when we can one day break bread & share a cup together again. --JLG

Fall Weekend: A Camp Experience Beyond Compare!

Over the past couple of weeks both Johnston Christian Park in South Range, NS and the Disciples Conference Grounds in Sweets Corners, ON hosted Fall Weekends for their respective Christian Youth Fellowship groups. The reports are in and a fantastic time was had by all! Close to 50 campers plus staff made it out to these amazing retreats and we praise God for the hard work undertaken by directors, staff, and adult volunteers who made these weekends possible.

NSCYF Fall Weekend: Christmas!



Thirty youth plus staff and "camp kids" gathered for NSCYF Fall Weekend at Johnston Christian Park (JCP) from September 30 to October 2, 2016.

There were two themes: outgoing NSCYF Executive Members Carter Thurber, Hannah Albright, Claudia Crocker, and Jesse Weaver chose "Christmas" as the fun theme, and the study theme was on the Holy Spirit, making use of Alpha videos and discussions. Rev. Steve Hopper of Liverpool Baptist Church led the study sessions, assisted by Cathy Dexter, Kaylee Carr, and Rev. Peter Anthony of the Brooklyn United Church Pastoral Charge. The highlights were night games organized by Kaylee, "sound off" sessions by Darrion Munroe, the auction where we raised \$240 for mission work, and swimming in the early cool fall. The new executive members elected were Hanna Albright (Digby Co./Halifax) and Zack Saulnier (Queens) as co-presidents; Joshua DeCoste (Queens) as vice president, Carter Thurber (Digby/Halifax) as secretary; and, Claudia Crocker, Kennedy Patterson, Trinity Macdonald, Mackenzie Dunn (Digby)

responsible for public relations. Russell Prime led the weekend with the able help of Wendy Kinney and Denise Kinney with food! We had lots of fun and learning! Thanks everyone for your help! We look forward to the Snow Fun event this winter.—
Russell Prime, National Youth & Young Adult Coordinator

OCYF Fall Weekend: Fall Fiesta!



Sixteen campers and five adult staff and volunteers converged on the Disciples Conference Grounds for our annual Fall Fiesta! The weekend was chilly, but gathered around the campfire we didn't even notice. Events included some fantastic night games, Minute to Win It challenge, Music Mash up (where we share our favourite songs and talk about why we shared them), some reflection time with the Regional Minister on facing doubts and challenges and integrating faith and life, and lots of time to hang out and make new friends. We also spent a day working on giving back to the camp by painting two cabins. Our final day together featured a turkey dinner complete with five different kinds of pie (thank you to JT Stavinga and Pastor Jen) that we made on site. A huge thank you to Drew Gillette for organizing the whole thing, Sarah Leitch for being our caretaker and fab photographer, Dan McLellan, Martha Inglis, and Danielle Kelly for being our adult volunteers. Thank you also to everyone who helped get our campers out for an amazing experience in a beautiful, sacred place. Our next event, Spring Thaw, will take place in March/April and we are putting the word out to Hillcrest Christian Church in Toronto: we would love to gather Ontario's youth in your community! Are you up for it? <>

A Letter to Ontario Disciples

Dear Fellow Disciples,

Convention 2016 has passed, and believe it or not, it is time to begin preparations for Convention 2018 in Guelph. Convention 2018 builds off of the momentum begun in Ridgetown & continued in Milton, and is a great way to reaffirm our commitment to growth and revitalization as a church in Canada. There is lots to do and plenty of ways to get involved. Areas you can work on:

- Venue and dates
- Publicity
- Logistics
- Program (theme, worship, keynote speaker, educational sessions)

Here is a highly scientific test to determine if you qualify for the committee:

- You want Convention to be awesome.
- You have access to either internet or a carrier pigeon.

Meetings will be virtual, via GoToMeeting (easy download, don't worry if you're not techie). Virtual meetings mean you get to plan in your PJs. Score! Meeting frequency depends on how close we are to Convention time, as well as group consensus. Let's

Hurricane Matthew Impacts Caribbean Partners

Patrick Villier, President of CONASPEH, reported that, at this time, the most affected departments of the country are in Southern Haiti. Sud, Grand'Anse, Nippes & Sud-est have been severely affected by the winds and rain, mostly the crops and houses. There had been some deaths, which were primarily individuals who had not been able to evacuate the designated areas. Polycarpe Joseph, Executive Director of "House of Hope" expressed that hurricane Matthew has made a big disaster in the country up to this moment. His estimates are that two or three weeks will be necessary before the completion of an evaluation of structural damage in the country. Right at this moment, the main needs are focused on helping the people in the next 48 hour. He says that it is imperative, at this moment, to provide medicines and food for families at Grand'Anse Department as well as the children of



have the Ontario churches band together to knock the Region's socks off!

Email me at kaelisweigard@gmail.com or reach out on Facebook to let me know you're in, & include which area(s) you are interested in. Looking forward to planning with you, *Kaeli Sweigard, Vice Moderator*

P.S. Absolute deadline to join the committee is end of Dec, but time flies & holiday brain is REAL. So if you know you'd like to be involved, contact me sooner rather than later.<

House of Hope. In the Dominican Republic, Denisse Pichardo, from Caminante, reports lots of rain there but no strong winds. There are floods all around the country. The soil is saturated with water so there have been landslides & people have lost their homes, especially in rural areas. Three children have died because of a wall that fell over them while they were sleeping. They will continue to monitor damages after the hurricane passes over the island. Please visit www.globalministries.org for updates & to seek solutions to be in solidarity with the suffering of our friends as well as the people in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba. (excerpt from: http://www.globalministries.org/hurricane_mattew_in_pacts_caribbean_partners) (SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR HURRICANE MATTHEW RELIEF, BY SENDING DONATIONS TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE IN DUNNVILLE MARKED: "Week of Compassion: Hurricane Matthew Relief")

Regional Happenings

MCKERNAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH in Edmonton AB held its 2nd annual Block Party on Friday, September 9. This was first held last year as an alternative to what was previously a “Welcome Back BBQ” held after church on the Sunday after university started. We had over 45 in attendance, an increase from last year, with neighbours, students, church members/attenders, and families making up those who enjoyed the potluck meal and the fellowship. This is a great way for us to be a part of our community, to meet our neighbours, to meet new/returning students, and get to know those who live around us. The weather was a little cooler this year, but we still had it outdoors on the front lawn of the church. This event, along with a Yard/Bake sale the previous Saturday, and a Bottle Drive the next Saturday, allowed us to be able to be witnesses of God’s love to those around us in our neighbourhood and beyond.



MAPLETON CHURCH OF CHRIST in Aylmer, Ontario celebrated its 166 Anniversary on October 2 with Regional Minister, Jen Garbin, bringing a message of encouragement to keeping singing God’s song in these tough times. We were also blessed to have the Winger Praise Band bringing two sets of wonderful music all the way from Wainfleet. A tasty meal of ham, roast beef, scalloped potatoes and a variety of salads (and desert of course!) followed. Happy Anniversary, Mapleton! Here’s to another 166 years of faithful service!

DID YOU KNOW OCTOBER 16-22 IS “CONGO WEEK”?

Breaking the Silence: Congo Week is an opportunity to raise awareness about the devastating legacy of conflict in the Congo and mobilize support on behalf of the people of the Congo. Paul wrote in I Corinthis 12:26, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." Global Ministries, as a member of the Body of Christ, suffers today because of injustice and exploitation of our sisters and brothers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are committed as members of the Body of Christ to break the silence, stop the pillaging, promote justice, defend women and children, protect the environment and support Congo. Learn more & download resources here: http://www.globalministries.org/congo_week.



Some info on COLTAN (the mineral in your phone & laptop battery): What is Coltan? Coltan is short for Columbite-tantalite - a black tar-like mineral found in major quantities in the Congo. The Congo possesses 64 percent of the world's reserves of coltan. When coltan is refined it becomes a heat resistant powder holds a high electric charge. The properties of refined coltan are vital elements in creating devices that store energy or capacitors, which are used in a vast array of small electronic devices, especially in mobile phones, laptop computers, and other electronic devices. Over the past 14 years, foreign corporations have been deeply involved in the exploitation of coltan in the Congo. The coltan mined by rebels and neighbouring countries (Rwanda, Uganda & Burundi) is sold to multi-national corporations. The United Nations (UN), in four studeis from 2001 – 2003, implicated several companies in sourcing coltan from the Congo and say that these companies serve as "the engine of the conflict in the DRC." Corporations from other countries have been a part of the coltan exploitation chain. Once the coltan is processed and converted to capacitors, it is then sold to companies such as Nokia, Motorola, Compaq, Alcatel, Dell, Hewlett-Packard , IBM, Lucent, Ericsson and Sony for use in a wide assortment of everyday products ranging from cell phones to computer chips and game consoles.<

Addresses for the Region

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.

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General Announcements & Invitations

- Happy Anniversary to McKernan Christian Church, Calgary, AB celebrating their 65th Anniversary on November 6, and to Wyndholme Christian Church, Darmouth, NS celebrating their 58th Anniversary this Sunday, October 16. Congratulations!
- Links to resources referenced in opening article: Evangelical Fellowship of Canada http://files.efc-canada.net/min/rc/cft/V03I02/Pastoral_Well-being-CECS.pdf and United Church of Canada http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/study_isolation-ministry.pdf
- Special offer from CHALICE PRESS: Greetings to our Canadian sisters and brothers in Christ from Chalice Press/Christian Board of Publication! 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 to Jan 31/17. Order at ChalicePress.com or: Phone: 1-770-280-4026 or 1-800-366-3383 or Email customerservice@chalicepress.com. Reps are available to help Mon-Fri, 7:00a-5p Central Time (*PLEASE NOTE*: website does not have shipping info for Canada so must call or email).

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Regional Minister Travel Schedule

Below is Jen's tentative travel/visit/preaching schedule for 2016. Please note Jen is not available on Mondays (day off). (Dates subject to change. Some visits have not yet been scheduled and do not yet appear here.)

OCTOBER	Location	NOVEMBER	Location
Saturday 15	OACC Board, Toronto	Monday 14	Meetings w QC congregations (tent)
Sunday 16	Hillcrest CC, Toronto	Wednesday 16	NIRF Leaders Mtg, Washington, DC
Wednesday 19	Emmanuel College, Toronto	Wednesday 16	Canadian Board Mtg
Saturday 22	Sugarbush CC, Guelph	Thurs 17- Fri 18	Canadian Council of Churches Governing Council, Crief Hills, ON
Sunday 23	St Thomas CC Search Comm	Sunday 20	St Thomas CC, St Thomas, ON
Friday 28-29	Maritime Board, Milton, NS		
Sunday 30	West Gore Disciples Church, West Gore, NS	DECEMBER	Location
NOVEMBER	Location	Friday 2	Travel to Alberta
Mon 1-Sat 5	Visits in PEI, NS	Sunday 4	Campbell Stone United, Calgary, AB
Sunday 6	Milton CC, Milton, NS	Mon 5- Sat 10	Visits to Alberta area, ABC
Friday 11	Travel to Montreal, QC	Wednesday 8	Western Area Fellowship Mtg
Saturday 12	Feliz Famiglia, Montreal, QC	Sunday 11	Q Community, Calgary, AB
Sunday 13	Église Chrétienne de la Pentecôte, Laval, QC	Sunday 18	Winger Church of Christ, Wainfleet, ON