



# News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church  
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May, 2019



## Barry's Blog

### Small Gestures

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says ***“and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”***

What a little thing... to give a cup of cold water? Jesus emphasizes this by his use of the word “even.” We often imagine discipleship as requiring huge sacrifice or entailing great feats, and sometimes that is exactly what discipleship comes to. But at other times, Jesus seems to say, it’s nothing more than giving a cup of cold water to one in need. Or offering words of comfort to someone who is grieving. Or a listening ear to someone in need of a friend... or dare I say it... offering a hug to someone to show them you care... Or offering a ride to someone without a car. Or volunteering at the local food bank. Or... well, you get the idea.



The life of faith is composed of a thousand small gestures. ***Except that, according to Jesus, there is no small gesture.*** Anything done in faith and love has cosmic significance for the ones involved. You probably know as well as I do, the story of *“The Star Fish Thrower”* -- the one about the little boy tossing starfish after starfish into the sea. When asked why, he replies that if they don’t get back in the water soon, they’ll dry out and die. Looking at a beach strewn with thousands of starfish, the man responds that he can’t possibly hope to make any difference. To which the boy responds by tossing another one into the ocean, and says, *“I bet it made a difference to that one!”*

What do we do in the meantime? Just do what we can... where we are... Because Jesus has promised to come in time to redeem the world, to fix all damage, to heal all hurts, and to wipe the tears from every eye... Our task is to devote ourselves to acts of mercy and acts of compassion... small and large, not trying to save the world -- Jesus has promised to do that! -- but simply trying to care for the little corner of the world in which we have been placed. And so even a cup of cold water can make a huge and unexpected difference to those to whom we give it and, according to Jesus, such acts have eternal and cosmic consequences!

This is what true hospitality looks like... I believe that hospitality lies at the heart of Christian discipleship... and this is what Jesus was getting at... Looking for opportunities to welcome strangers, and show compassion to those in need... But how often do we walk by those kinds of opportunities? They’re all around us... if we would simply open our eyes and pay attention. A cup of cold water is a gift that everyone can give because it is the smallest of gifts. Even this, the smallest of gifts, is precious to the person receiving it, because it sometimes it is the gift of life itself.

Hospitality frees us to offer a cup of cold water to someone who might be in a situation completely foreign to our experience; someone in a world that is outside our limited understanding. And when we are brought into relationship with one another by the bond that hospitality creates, there is no more host and guest, no more insider and outsider; there is only a space in which we listen to, and learn from one another, valuing and honouring one another until all the uneven ground on which we stand... becomes level.

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



## Chili Cook-off

We had a great time at our first ever Chili Cook-off! 9 different kinds of Chili to choose from... including a fire-cooked Chili... Thanks to all who submitted!

Congrats to our winners... [Patrice Mccammon](#) (1st place), [John Schneider](#) (2nd place), and [Linda Norton](#) (3rd place).

A special thank you to our many guests who not only sampled several kinds of chili but had an opportunity to make their own sundaes.

Our three judges, Gail, Brian and Ruth had a difficult task judging the nine tasty dishes.... a variety ranging from mild to spicy. Thanks to Susan and Terry for setting up another fine evening of food and fellowship. Well done everyone!



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“Just a Coffee”

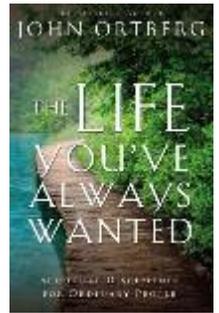
**Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church**  
“Every Monday morning at 10 am”  
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## Bible Study

If you missed the first one, don't despair.

Join in with a great group for the second one at 9:30 am on Wed. May 1.

Find out how you can have “The Life You've Always Wanted”!



Includes coffee and occasionally goodies and good conversation.

## Meat Pie Project

URGENT REMINDER: Meat pie orders must be received by May 1 since ingredients will be purchased by May 3. Please phone the Schneider's at 705-429-3903 or email them at [jmschneider@rogers.com](mailto:jmschneider@rogers.com) with your order. Either ground beef or turkey pies are available for \$4.50 per pie. They may be picked up at the church on Thursday, May 9.

This is a very important fund raiser for our general account. So ask family and friends to join in and have tasty meals ready in a short time as summer approaches!

## Vista Program

Vista has another promotion coming up for gas rewards with Petro Canada. Anyone purchasing a \$100 Petro-Canada card will get a bonus card that saves you 5 cents per litre on 100 litres of fuel. This bonus card is valid from May 1 to Aug 31. Plus if you register this bonus card with Petro points, they will add another 5 cents off for an additional 50 litres. Additionally The Ultimate Dining Card is having a draw for anyone purchasing an Ultimate Dining card, there will be a draw for 2 \$100 gift cards this is also running between May 1 and Aug 31. Draw will take place in September.

The offices for Vista are closed for a good part of the summer so I will do an order for mid-June and then not until mid-August so stock up in June for the summer months.

Thanks for your support. Val Stinson  
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## Creative Hands

The ladies have been very busy and this month we've given out several prayer shawls. We have also delivered two "Twiddle Muffs" to Wasaga Senior Residence and another 12 to Stayner Nursing Home.



Nancy has 14 chemo hats that are being delivered to Gilda's Club in Barrie this coming week.

We are also learning to crochet a new project so stay tuned and watch for our latest endeavour.

Remember that you are always welcome to join us on a Wednesday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and we put the kettle on for 'tea at two'.



### **"Boots on the Ground Tuesday Wednesday 7th & 8th of MAY"**

It appears that this immediate, upcoming week will continue to be off and on rain, with the ground continuing to be saturated. Currently the 14 day forecast indicates we will have 3 drying days prior to Tuesday the 7th. So to be clear this is a layout initiative *not planting or otherwise*.



### ***(The following article was submitted to the Presbyterian Record)***

#### **"Garden Sanctuaries"**

We at Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church, are working to create two outdoor projects which will increase our community profile and hopefully attract new people to our property to enjoy our outdoor locations, and our church services.

Our immediate neighbours are the Town of Wasaga Beach, (at Mosley Street & 6th Street to the east), and the remaining 70% of our property is adjacent to the Ontario Provincial Park land and just steps through the park to the sand dunes and shore line of Southern Georgian Bay, Wasaga Beach (the longest fresh water beach in the world).

We have broken our North and South areas into Phases One and Two to allow focus on one at a time. When completed, we will have two aligned but separate buildings housing our sanctuary, offices, kitchen and large hall. Our focus this May/June is Phase One, a botanical garden theme

with an arbor and small patio for outdoor events in front of our knoll with a flower garden and treed background. We hope to host weddings, celebrations, congregational outdoor services and quiet meditations in this space throughout our spring and summer season. Phase Two, will see a third of the space of Phase One being developed around "Quiet Time", with a small outdoor chapel, fire pit designed in an Octagon design, flower beds, colourful shrubs and a bench or two for seating.

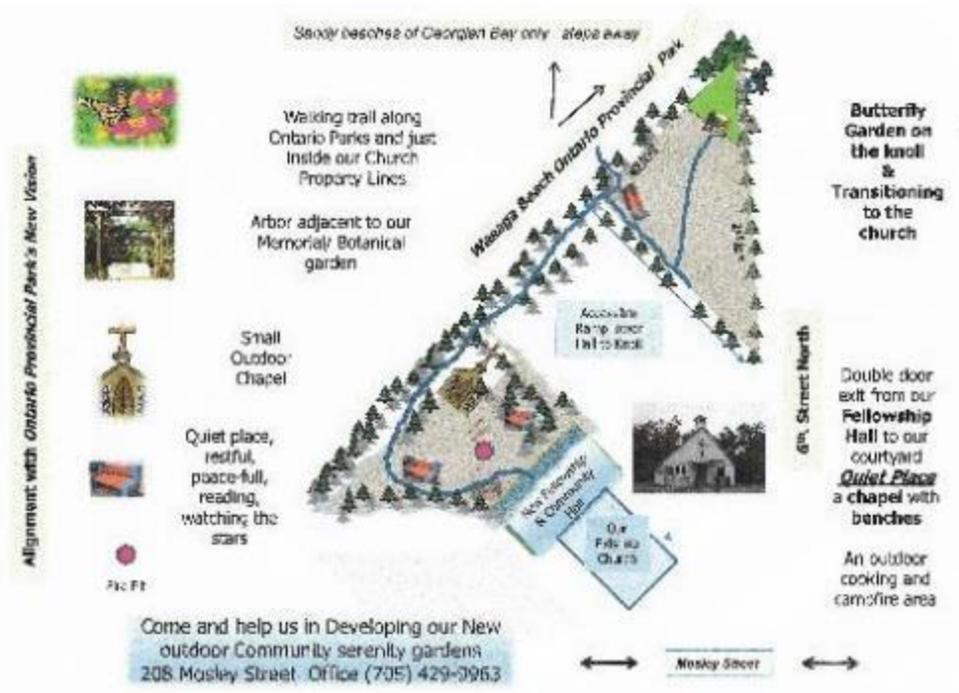
Phase Two started a few years ago, with our PA days in the winter months where outdoor activities were limited. A Luge was built (toboggan hill) and was a favourite for the outdoor time throughout the winter months. The rest of that area was cleared of small brush and poison ivy over two summers and a fire-pit area was also set up. The following year the area to the north (Phase One) was grubbed, trees and roots removed, backfilled creating a natural knoll covered with Triple Mix for planting local flowers which will take place this spring. Mature Blue Spruce trees were brought in to accent the knoll and provide a wind break. The perimeter along 6th Street was planted with native evergreen species with a generous donation from one of our parishioners.

In preparation for our planting this spring we approached our local Garden Club for expertise resulting in recruiting a 20-year founding-board-member for expert guidance for our team of four. We were then able to present our results at the local Wasaga Beach Lions Club Home and Garden Show. This was a great opportunity that allowed us to increase our profile in the Wasaga Beach community as we were one of 70 local company exhibitors. We received very positive feed-back and interest with a number of additional volunteers from the gardening communities that are prepared to participate in our continuing development this spring.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Rev. Barry Doner

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# May 2019

## Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church

Rev. Barry Doner

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| Sunday                                            | Monday                                           | Tuesday                                                   | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                               | Friday                     | Saturday                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                           | 1                                                                             | 2                                                      | 3                          | 4                             |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                           | Bible Study<br>9:30 am<br>Creative hands 1pm                                  |                                                        |                            |                               |
| 5                                                 | 6                                                | 7                                                         | 8                                                                             | 9                                                      | 10                         | 11                            |
| Service 9:30 am<br>Tea & social following service | Just A Coffee<br>10:00 am                        | Treblemakers<br>6:30 pm                                   | Bible Study<br>9:30 am<br>Waterside Service<br>10:30 am<br>Creative hands 1pm | Meat Pie making<br>9:30 am<br>Support Group<br>6:30 pm | Calorie Counters<br>8:45am |                               |
| 12                                                | 13                                               | 14                                                        | 15                                                                            | 16                                                     | 17                         | 18                            |
| Service 9:30 am<br>Tea & social following service | Just A Coffee<br>10:00 am<br>Youth centre dinner | Treblemakers<br>6:30 pm<br>Congregational Life<br>9:30 am | Bible Study<br>9:30 am<br>Creative hands 1pm                                  | Board of Managers<br>6:30 pm                           | Calorie Counters<br>8:45am |                               |
| 19                                                | 20                                               | 21                                                        | 22                                                                            | 23                                                     | 24                         | 25                            |
| Service 9:30 am<br>Tea & social following service | Just A Coffee<br>10:00 am                        | Treblemakers<br>6:30 pm                                   | Bible Study<br>9:30 am<br>Creative hands 1pm                                  | Sil Simone Concert<br>7 pm                             | Calorie Counters<br>8:45am | Adopt A Road<br>Ladies Brunch |
| 26                                                | 27                                               | 28                                                        | 29                                                                            | 30                                                     | 31                         |                               |
| Service 9:30 am<br>Tea & social following service | Just A Coffee<br>10:00 am<br>Session 5 pm        | Treblemakers<br>6:30 pm                                   | Bible Study<br>9:30 am<br>Creative hands 1pm                                  |                                                        | Calorie Counters<br>8:45am |                               |