



News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church
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Barry's Blog

Finding God in the Midst of Suffering

One of my favourite children's books growing up was "*Alexander's Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day?*" in which Alexander has a terrible day, and suggests that if he were in charge, things would be different. Have you ever felt like that... sure that you have all the answers? My question for you is... What would bring you to greater faith in God? What would be enough to convince you to trust God completely, even in the midst of difficult times?

The book of Job gives a surprising answer... not a set of arguments explaining the ways of God, but a set of questions confronting us with the reality of God's presence; not reason, but revelation. Or as Job himself says "*My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.*" And that was enough for Job. Is it enough for you?

Probably not... After all, haven't we moved past the ancient world in knowledge and technology and science. We are the masters of our own fate. At least that seems to be the predominant mindset in our world today. I suspect that many of us will reply to Job's God with a proud retort, "*That's not good enough. I demand more from God, if there is one. I demand an answer to the suffering of the world.*"

Our relationship with God is often blurred by our pain and suffering, our worship turns into complaint, and our prayers of gratitude are transformed into agonized questions. So, thank God that God himself responds to Job. Job couldn't recover his sense of God's love on his own. God had to break through his pain with a reminder that He is God... the God who spoke to Abraham and Moses face to face. Now he speaks to Job as the

God whose love will not let him go. God doesn't explain his ways in a reasonable argument, but reminds Job of the mighty acts He has done. In Job 23, we heard that Job's deepest desire was for God to appear to him, but he couldn't find God anywhere. Now God has found us in Jesus, Emmanuel, *God with us*. God's final answer to all our questions is *Jesus*. That may not satisfy the questions of our minds, but it does satisfy the needs of our lives in ways too real for words.

Is this an adequate response to Job's suffering? It is not, in a conventional sense, very comforting at all. God would probably fail a present-day pastoral care class. Nonetheless, these speeches of God at the end of the book of Job accomplish something profound. They move Job out of his endless cycle of grief into life again. They enable him to live freely in a world full of heartbreaking suffering *and at the same time*, heart-stopping beauty.... When you're too focused on the former... you'll miss the latter....

Job cast a vision of a world overshadowed by pain and suffering. God responds by showing him the beauty and hope of the same world. And here's the thing. I'm not sure these are competing views. I don't think the one negates the other. God doesn't respond with beauty to cancel out or disregard Job's suffering. I think that's why God doesn't exactly answer Job's question about suffering. Because no answer — even one from God — is ever satisfactory in the midst of our pain and grief. Nothing solves suffering. Nothing answers it. But neither is suffering and grief the whole story of our lives and of the world. There is beauty, and grace, and hope in the world, too, existing simultaneously, in paradox, side-by-side. I encourage you to look deeper, even in the midst of your pain... What do you see? Your suffering is not the end of the story...

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



Congregational life

A special invitation to everyone to attend our first Congregational Life Meeting on **Tues. Sept. 10 at 9:30 am** as we prepare for our Fall season of coming events plus a review of our summer activities. Special mention: Sept. corn roast, Oct. Meat pie project. Plus any ideas for fund raisers for Presbyterians Sharing.



Thank you to the twenty brave souls who withstood the heat on Sunday at our annual mini golf tournament

which was held at Wasaga 500.site of the go cart track.

As usual, the teams had great fun with a cross section of ages on most teams. We had several Participants being awarded major prizes for achieving a hole in one. Others were awarded best team (that was everyone) while Linda Norton Fenner received the coveted prize ...the Tammy Baker volume for her wonderful individual score. Elizabeth McNabb looked stunning in her new designer sun glasses. Bill Aiken will pour over his prize, a book of tips on How to Play Better Golf in preparation for next year's tournament.

As usual our hors d'oeuvres were amazing with lots of cold beverages as chasers. (We skipped the hot tea and coffee). Thanks Yvonne for your help in the kitchen and Ivy for your help in setup.

Start searching out more of those amazing prizes at the summer yard sales. We all look forward to receiving one??

Marilyn



Pot Luck BBQ and Corn Roast Wednesday September 18th at 6 pm



Bring your favorite dish and your utensils and come and join us for great fellowship



Creative Hands

Welcome back, knitters (and crocheters). We hope you have had a chance to rest your fingers and are ready to take on our much appreciated mission.

We will be starting again on September 11th meeting from 1 - 3 pm in the lower hall.

We received a large bundle of yarn from Faith Missionary Church and will be making pneumonia prevention vests, booties and hats (they have included easy patterns for the booties and hats). We do appreciate using their shipping company connection to get these items to needy places around the globe.



Remember that all are welcome and we will teach you if you are new to our group. There is always "tea at two".

Thanks, Nancy



Serenity Garden

*(While I was away there were some **awesome** volunteers who have kept the gardens free of unwanted growth, touched up, replaced, took pictures of the butterflies etc. etc.)*



Serenity Garden project; is targeted for completion by end of September, with a potential Grand Opening inviting our Wasaga and surrounding areas, for the first weekend in October.

BOM and others will be meeting to set some dates for cleanup around the church, as well as pulling together a work crew for one or two Saturdays for finishing off Phase 1.

Terry



The Alberta ride for Cancer through the foothills of the Rockies was another success 5.8 Million. 1,300 + riders with over 2000 workers, coordinators, route volunteers, etc.

An Epic Effort by all.



September 2019

Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church

Rev. Barry Doner

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	2	3	4	5	6 Calorie Counters 8:45am	7
8 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	9 Youth centre dinner	10 Treblemakers 6:30 pm Congregational Life 9:30 am	11 Waterside Service 10:30 am Creative hands 1 pm	12 Support Group 6:30 pm	13 Calorie Counters 8:45am	14
15 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	16	17 Treblemakers 6:30 pm	18 Creative hands 1 pm Pot Luck BBQ & Corn Roast 6pm	19 Board of Managers 6:30 pm	20 Calorie Counters 8:45am	21
22 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	23 Session 5 pm	24 Treblemakers 6:30 pm	25 Creative hands 1 pm	26 Support Group 6:30 pm	27 Calorie Counters 8:45am	28
29 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	30					