



# News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church  
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March 2020



## Barry's Blog

### Wilderness Times

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*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." – Isaiah 40*

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This is the cry of Lent: ***Prepare the way of the Lord!*** Make room for God in your thoughts and activities and hearts. An appropriate response to this announcement is to take stock of our lives, to reconsider how we are living our lives. And that is what Lent is for, to reflect on our lives as they are now, and to consider what they could be. Giving up a habit or a food or a pleasure is not what Lent is all about. People give up things all the time, for a myriad of reasons.

The point of Lent is to reorient our lives God-ward. This reorientation has to do with desert and wilderness. ***"Wilderness experiences"*** are those times in our lives, whether a moment in time or a season of our life, in which we feel dryness and an absence of joy. Whether it is a prolonged illness, the loss of a loved one, loneliness, hopelessness... we are stripped of our usual comforts, removed from the safety of familiarity, and are forced to see the world from a different vantage point. We return from these experiences with new insight or perspective, "a new lease on life."



Wildernesses come in so many shapes and sizes that the only way you can really tell that you are in one is to look around for what you normally count on to save your life and come up empty.

These wilderness times can be an important time of testing our values, looking at what is most important, and making decisions about our life's priorities. As painful as wilderness experiences are, they can yield more spiritual growth than the good times. They can be times of learning about ourselves, about God, and about what is most important. Without that time of stocktaking and self-examination, life can just go along without much thought.

Here are some good wilderness questions: Where is my life headed? What should move to the top of my priority list? What is God calling me to do with my life and with all the resources God has given me? What in my life right now do I take for granted?

Lent is not only about giving up things. It is also about adding things. Having given up junk food for a healthy diet, what will you do with the energy you gain? » Having given up reading magazines, what will you read now? Having given up Facebook, to whom will you devote meaningful, face-to-face conversation? Having given up TV, how will you use that time to cultivate quality family time? Having given up shopping, how will you use that extra money?

The practice of giving something up for Lent is a way of entering into the wilderness with Jesus. Don't worry about whether or not your sacrifice is a good one. It's not a contest. Just make sure it is something that reorients you to what God is doing in your life.

Blessings,  
Rev. Barry Doner



## Presbyterians Sharing

At our Annual Meeting it was voted that we accept \$4000 as our accepted allocation for Presbyterian Sharing this year. Marilyn Schneider will continue to coordinate this effort.

Presbyterian Sharing is an important part of the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Presbyterian Sharing assists the formation of new faith communities in this country and overseas.

Please continue to use your blue envelopes, currently found in the backs of our seating in the sanctuary, to make contributions to Presbyterian Sharing. We did an excellent job of reaching our goal for last year so we hope that this year will be just as successful!

God's blessings, Heather Bostock  
Clerk of Session



## World Day of Prayer

6th March 2 pm



This year we are hosting the service. The country featured is Zimbabwe and the scripture verses that the service is based on is John 5: 2-9a "Rise! Take your mat and walk." This is an ecumenical worship service held in conjunction with the Presbyterian, United, Anglican and Catholic services in our community and in church communities all over the world. Please consider attending! An offering will be taken during the service to further the work of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. These funds are used to restore hope to women touched by injustice.



## Meat Pies

Meat pie making on May 14th. This will be a big project and an important fundraiser. The goal for production this time is an ambitious 880 pies! Watch for the sign-up lists to help with production and to order your delicious meat pies!



## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Elizabeth Gibson and Ivy Wilson are coordinating this event. This is a sit-down dinner with tickets selling for \$10 each. Come and celebrate the wearing of the green!



## Vista Gift Cards

Val Stinson would like to know if anyone would partner with her to sell the Vista Gift Cards. It is fairly easy to do but requires someone who is not traveling so much.

If anyone would help out, please contact her at [destinson@sympatico.ca](mailto:destinson@sympatico.ca). If no one comes forward to help, Vista card orders will come to an end.



## Creative Hands

We meet each Wednesday (weather permitting) from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and the kettle goes on for "Tea at Two". If you can knit or crochet, or would like to learn, please join us in the church hall (enter through the back door).



Donations of yarn or money to purchase more yarn is always welcome.



## Upcoming Events

March 6- World Day of Prayer (our church hosting)  
April 18, 19 - The Home and Garden Show in April.  
(We hope to have a display featuring our Community Serenity Garden.)

We welcome ideas for fundraising and fellowship events for the coming year.

Heather Bostock  
Clerk of Session



# March

2020

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 Treblemakers 6:45 pm	4 Creative hands 1 pm	5	6 Weigh To Go 8:45am World Day of Prayer 2 pm	7
8 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	9 Youth Centre dinner	10 Congregational Life 9:30 am Treblemakers 6:45 pm	11 Waterside Service 10:30 am Creative hands 1 pm	12 Growing Connections 6:30 pm	13 Weigh To Go 8:45am	14
15 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	16	17 Treblemakers 6:45 pm	18 Creative hands 1 pm	19 Board of Managers 6:30 pm	20 Weigh To Go 8:45am	21
22 Service 9:30 am Tea & social Treblemakers Concert 7:30 pm	23 Session 5 pm	24	25 Creative hands 1 pm	26 Growing Connections 6:30 pm	27 Weigh To Go 8:45am	28
29 Service 9:30 am Tea & social following service	30	31 Treblemakers 6:45 pm				