

NORTHERN LIGHT

The Official Newsletter of

The Cariboo Presbyterian Church

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Visit our website: <http://www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca>

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CHANGES AFOOT IN THE CARIBOO

Transitions: Jon Wyminga

It is late August as I write, and changes are in the air. I tried to sit outside for my prayer time this morning but it was just a tad too cold that early. A few people have told me they've even seen frost lately. I'm just starting to notice the aspen leaves changing colour. All these are messengers that we have begun the transition from summer into fall. In the next few months I'll be replenishing my firewood supply. The ranchers we know are desperately trying to get their hay crop in. They would have done it earlier but our rainy summer has hindered their progress. On the up side the rain has meant we haven't had to worry about forest fires this summer – at least not locally. The situation in the Amazon rainforest is much more distressing, I know.

Changing seasons mean that children as well as college and university students are all heading back to school and many churches are moving into their fall activities. Here in the Cariboo House Church Mission we will be facing some transitions of our own. Bruce Wilcox, our full time Lay Missionary will be retiring at the end of January. After leading most of our southern house churches for six and a half years, he and his wife Jackie are hopefully looking forward to a much deserved rest. We look forward to having Mark Carter join us, along with his wife Alicia and their newborn son Micah. Mark was a part of our McLeese Lake House Church for many years before he heard God's call to full time ministry and began his studies in Vancouver. After a very careful and prayerful discernment process, we invited him and his family to serve the Lord among us. Mark has included some of his own reflections on this new adventure on the next page. They are planning to join us at the beginning of October so Mark and Bruce can work together for four months, facilitating the transition. It will mean

for some extra challenges and opportunities before the end of the year but, truth be told, we've faced these kinds of challenges before. Dave and Linda Webber had served in this mission for 25 years. Before they retired five years ago we had a transition period when we brought Bruce on. Earlier still we also had Charles McNeil join us in ministry for a number of years. He and his wife Shannon served faithfully among us.

Even though we've already been through this it still takes more than a little preparation and a significant step of faith in the Lord. There will be added expenses to support an additional missionary for four months and the additional costs of moving the Carter family from Vancouver. This will mean an increase in our financial needs of almost \$25,000 in those four months. We're trusting in the Lord who has always provided through our faithful members, friends and supporters. We would appreciate you keeping these needs in your thoughts and prayers.

As we face many transitions, and as many of you across the land face your own, I am reminded of the many challenges the early church faced in the few years after Jesus died and was raised again. There was:

- the 50 day wait in Jerusalem for Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4)
- the Spirit's coming, which launched the church into mission and ministry (Acts 2)
- the appointment of seven people to administer food distribution and alleviate the increasing demands on the apostles (Acts 6:16)
- the persecution against the church in Jerusalem that forced all but the apostles to leave the city (Acts 8:1)
- the Gentiles who receive the message of Jesus and thus challenged the whole church to rethink its

approach to the Law of Moses (Acts 10:1-11:18; 15:1-35).

- mission and churches being established outside of Jerusalem in Samaria (Acts 8:4-40), Damascus (Acts 9:10-22) and Antioch (Acts 11:19-30)
- the appointment of missionaries to bring the message of Jesus even further afield to Turkey (Asia Minor) (Acts 13:1-3ff)
- the call of those missionaries to reach out even further to Europe (Macedonia) (Acts 16:6-10ff).
- the arrest and imprisonment of some and their extensive ministry while in chains (Acts 4:1-31; 5:17-42; 6:8-8:1; 12:1-19; 16:6-40; 21:27-28:31).

Each of these situations presented significant challenges, many of them more difficult than any challenge I have ever had to face. In each case the followers of Jesus trusted the Lord. And in each case the Lord proved more than worthy of that trust. So as we face our transitions and you face yours, I encourage us all to put our trust in the Lord “who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
And he will make straight your paths.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)*

The Call of the Wild: Mark Carter

A reoccurring thought that occasionally runs through my mind is, “Why would anyone want to be a pastor?” I cannot answer that question entirely yet, but I know part of the answer lies in my first call to pastoral ministry in the Cariboo Presbyterian Church.

Six months into my four year degree at Regent College, Alicia and I embarked on married life together in 2015 with hearts set on a distant and unknown future in ministry. Since then, I have made good friends, struggled through challenging courses, and have walked with great mentors. These past years have been a shaping process. I arrived at Regent with lots of enthusiasm and energy for study and debate. I left Regent with considerably less enthusiasm for sitting through long lectures and writing endless papers, but learned some things I did not expect along the way. I learned that theological education is not just about critically evaluating ideas, but is about walking alongside of other learners and receiving from them. Theological education is as much about

learning about yourself as it is learning about God and various thoughts about God. The end result of my education is a burgeoning desire to share what I have learned with others through preaching, teaching, praying, and eating meals together. This gospel-living tends to burst out of the church community into neighbouring communities, kind of like a well that cannot contain living, flowing, bubbling-up water.



Alicia and I were blessed with our first child (Micah James Carter) in March of this year. We are thrilled to be parents and look forward to raising Micah with some of his cousins in Williams Lake. One of the factors in our decision to come to the Cariboo was our friends and family in the area. We will miss our good friends

and family in the Lower Mainland, but also look forward to making new friends and connections in the Cariboo.

Perhaps the answer to my reoccurring question is that pastoring is not a vocation to be chosen for its glamour but is something one is called to. What I know is that I have no greater sense of God’s presence then when I am engaged in the pastoral work of proclaiming the Word, praying with and for the saints, and walking alongside of believers and pre-believers as we navigate the hills and valleys of life towards the Beautiful City.

Thank You to Our Supporters: Jon Wyminga

In recent years we have published two newsletters annually. Yet we thought we would add this brief update to let you know about some of the changes taking place among us in the Cariboo. For those who have already sent us a contribution this year, this newsletter will include a confirmation of it for your records. We continue to be extremely grateful to all of you who support us. We have been richly blessed through your ongoing love, support and prayers. Thanks for all you do to enable us to continue this work for Christ in the Cariboo. May you know God’s presence and blessings through the fall and winter.