

# FAIRVIEWS

Winter 2015/2016

Dear Friends of Fairview Baptist Church,

Our time in this world is precious. As we enjoy the fall colours and prepare for the coming of Advent and a new church calendar, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to Our God for the gift of life and for the gift of eternal life, God's very own life, through Jesus Christ. This past year has had its sorrows—we said goodbye to Ivan Krautter, Audrey Porter, and Mike Palmer, whose lives have touched us, and for whom we give thanks to God for their service and loving presence over the years. We have also experienced the joy of new life in the birth of Isaiah Xavier Silang. Through these experiences, we see that all things are in God's hands, both death and life, and through Scripture that God's plan for humanity is always good, the journey from lost to found, old into new, death into life. Everywhere in this world, the Holy Spirit is at work, especially in places of grief and terror, bringing new life, new hope, opening hearts to the adventure of faith and love.

As we enter the new church year, I am mindful of the many tasks at hand. There are the immediate tasks of getting ready for our annual Christmas dinner, of liturgical preparations for our special Advent Sundays, and for the new ventures we have undertaken, both in maintaining the physical structure of Fairview and nourishing the spiritual body that we are through programs like Reframe and ongoing Bible studies. I pray for humility and patience, for strength and wisdom to be a better servant to the congregation. I pray that each and every person who comes to Fairview to worship truly experiences the joy of knowing Jesus Christ and experiences this so abundantly that their light inundates their respective circles of influence, their families, homes and communities where they live and work.

As winter approaches with its gray days and longer nights, I embrace the new season with the hope that is taught time and again in Scripture: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone" (Isa 9:2); "Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12); "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 5:14-16).

What riches we have in the Father of Lights, who calls us to be like Him, to be light for the world, just as the Beloved Son is light and life. May we enter the winter season with this light, for ourselves, for our homes, for others. Let us trust God's love more and the works of love He has invited us to undertake. As the Abbe de Tourville writes:

*"Be bold enough always to believe that God is on your side and wholly yours, whatever you may think of yourself. Think of this and say to yourself 'I am loved by God more than I can either conceive or understand'"*

Rejoice that you are what you are; our Lord loves you very dearly. He loves the whole of you, just as you are. Remember that it is our souls which are God's joy; not on account of what they do for Him, but on what He does for them. All that He asks of us is to gladly accept His kindness, His generosity, His tolerance, His fatherly love. Do not worry about what you are or are not. You are the object of His mercy. Be satisfied with that and think only of that. The Mystery of grace which works in us is in a sense a copy of the Mystery of the Incarnation. By grace Jesus takes possession of our personality and fills it with His Divinity. He desires to make use of us by grace as he made use of His own nature in the Incarnation. The intimacy of the soul with our Lord provides true nourishment, true home, however much circumstances change."

This light is precious. With a world facing ongoing terrorism, warfare, poverty, disease and despair, we need to remember that there is a cure, there is hope, and that

Church council is kept busy with oversight of the day-to-day church business, but also has a critically important role in working to support the congregational vision. At our last business meeting, in early November, the question was raised by Colleen Hardwick about whether consideration should be given to development of the west side of the church (parking lot). Discussion ensued at the congregational dialogue part of the meeting, followed by discussion at the November council meeting two days later.

The church has in the past discussed possibly having housing built on our large and strategically located lot (with respect to shopping and public transportation). At one point it was led by Colleen's father, Walter Hardwick, who was a city councilor and then a deputy minister in the provincial government, as well as being a professor of Geography at UBC. There were further discussions when Brian Stelck attended Fairview (as principal of Carey Theological College then, he oversaw the residential development on their property, in the theological precinct at UBC). Suffice it to say, that although there has been enthusiasm in a general sense for affordable/seniors housing, nothing has happened to date.

Given the positive feedback about the concept overall, council will now be hosting a presentation from Baptist Housing, a group that has undertaken a number of seniors housing projects in BC. An hour has been scheduled for their presentation and Q+A.

With regards to the process whereby council provides leadership to the church, our main forum is our monthly meeting, held every second Tuesday (except July and August). Over dinner, the ideas brought forward are discussed prayerfully. If an idea has support at council, the next decision is how to take it to the congregation. Certainly, no decision involving significant expenses not previously approved by the congregation, as part of the annual budget, will come to a full congregational meeting for approval.

With respect to the idea of housing development on the west lot of the church building, we will meet with representatives of Baptist Housing, and based on their presentation and our subsequent discussion, decide if we want to take this forward to the congregation. You may hear from us in the new year! This serves as an example of an initiative currently before council, to illustrate the decision making process within the church. Please feel free to bring your ideas forward to myself or other members of council at any time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Blake Gilks, Chair, Fairview Baptist Church Council

hope and cure lives in our hearts. It is Jesus, who has not left us as orphans, but has adopted us into salvation. Though our world turns through great changes, the hope of glory is always relevant, always effective, always true. Remember what the Word of God proclaims: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). And as the Lord Jesus himself promised us: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

May Jesus fill you with His light this season.

Stephen Hasbrouck

REFRAME, a course designed by Regent College, comprises a series of episodes that invites Christians "to encounter Jesus in their everyday circumstances, understand the meaning of Jesus' life and work in the biblical study and respond to Jesus in practical and creative ways." The 2nd episode will be on Dec 13. (Contact: Trina).

The PRAYER SHAWL group meets once a month to "knit" meditation and prayer over needles, crochet hook, wool and a shawl-in-the-making. "Knit 3, Purl 3", the first 2 shawls, now completed, will be gifted to individuals in need of encouragement and special care. (Contact: Diane)

The BIBLE STUDY group meets periodically and over the year, has engaged in reflections on BONHOEFFER. In May, Dr J S Conway, Professor Emeritus of History, UBC presented on Bonhoeffer's last 2 years of imprisonment where some of his most "radical" writings were produced and smuggled out to friends and allies during his incarceration. (Contact: Bob D)

IMAGO DEI holds its contemplative service on the first Saturday of each month. For Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Advent meditations will be taken from Isaiah (Contact: imago@shaw.ca)



In Memoriam  
*AUDREY PORTER*

1921 – 2015

On August 1st of this year, we lost our friend and favourite 94-year old, Audrey Porter.

Audrey joined the church in 2008, having just moved out from her home in Montreal to be closer to her daughter Susan.

Born in 1921 in Montreal, one of a pair of identical twins, each weighing about 3 pounds, Audrey remained close to her sister, Dorothy, all her life. In their youth, they spent hours figure-skating together, performing and competing at a high level, and both pursued their childhood dream of becoming nurses.

Audrey trained at the Montreal General Hospital, and signed on shortly after to the Canadian Navy during WWII, serving primarily in Halifax and Newfoundland. She later earned a Diploma in Public Health Nursing at McGill, and worked at the Children's Service Centre in Montreal for several years.

She met her husband, Ted, through her engagement with Moral Rearmament (MRA), now called Initiatives of Change, an international movement dedicated to societal and individual change. After their marriage, Ted was transferred through his work with the Bank of Montreal to New York City. There, 3 children were born, with the 4<sup>th</sup>, Susan, arriving on the scene after returning to Montreal.

Primarily through their life work in Initiatives of Change, Ted and Audrey were very active advocates of social reconciliation and transformation, and were committed to being guided by God to living by high moral standards, all central tenets of the organization. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, their house, as the home base of MRA for Canada, was often full of people – guests composing music in the basement, typing letters in the dining room, on the phone incessantly, and holding meetings in the living room. With Audrey as an amazing hostess, the children grew up with a capacious definition of what hospitality is!

Active in the political and civic realm, Audrey served in several capacities in the Montreal Council of Women, including as President. She was a committed Christian, and a member of Westmount Baptist Church (overlapping for a time with Nancy Yurkovich!) for most of her life. Always open and non-dogmatic about faith matters, she appreciated the good she saw in the different religions and cultures of many of her friends.

After Ted passed away in 1984, Audrey sold the family home, and for many years (until her early 80's) took responsibility and leadership for running the centres for Initiatives of Change in Montreal. In addition, she travelled extensively, and as grandchildren began to enter the scene, became an engaged and supportive grandma. Her life-long sense of adventure stayed with her and well into her 70s; she slept in a caravan, went on safari in Africa, scaled a mountain in Italy, travelled to India, and in her mid-80s, jumped over breakers in the ocean off New England, and went pubbing in Ireland.

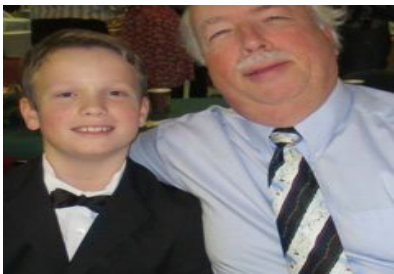
Despite Audrey's increasing frailty and discomfort in latter years, she consistently retained her great stoicism and acceptance of what life had to offer her, her consideration of those around her, and her enthusiasm in pushing herself to experience and contribute to life. This was poignantly demonstrated a few days before her death -- utterly exhausted from battling with pneumonia, she was absolutely insistent that she and her family step outside even though she was not well enough to transfer to a wheelchair. After an initial refusal from the nursing staff – it was against the rules – permission was obtained to wheel her bed outside, where she felt the breeze and sunshine on her face, and was serenaded with her favorite hymns (repeated renditions of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"! ). When told by her daughters that they thought 'the good Lord was ready to take' her, she agreed, and expressed complete confidence and even eagerness for her last journey.

Audrey possessed a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and was indeed blessed, as Jesus proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount. Apart from her life-long dedication to changed hearts and changed societies, what many remember about her are the simple acts and expressions of grace she extended daily to those around her. She inspired many, and will have a lasting impact on the many lives she touched.

*Editor: Special thanks to Susan for sharing this.*



MY DAD was the best dad you could ever have. He spoiled my brothers and I rotten! Every holiday he made sure we had lots of chocolates and other treats. He did things with us, like scouts and going on family vacations. Even when he was sick, he maintained his sense of humor. One of my favorite memories is my dad's tradition of videotaping us running down the stairs on Christmas morning to see what we got from Santa!  
~ Sarah



MY DAD was the most inspirational man I've known. He was always there when I needed him and willing to lend a hand. Some of my fondest memories of him are going to baseball games, scouting, having him shout the answers out to the games he couldn't play (due to work), and just spending time together.  
~ Nick

## In Memoriam *MICHAEL PALMER*

1956 - 2015

I was not impressed when Michael was brought home from the hospital...he was adorable, he giggled and laughed... he loved dogs...wanted to be doctor but a bike injury landing him in the ER put an end to his medical career!

~ Linda

Mike helped with various sections (of Scouts) as his kids grew up in the program...he brought project planning that made everything work better... he applied to be area commissioner where he ran big camps and strategy for fundraising...he'd say, "love God and take care of the world"

~ Lawrence

His enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment were infectious... thanks to Mike, 13th Ryerson enjoyed a new generation of leaders...he was well respected by all...his wonderful sense of humour will be greatly missed.

~ Jackie

I fell under Mike Palmer's scouting spell...became a cub leader myself...he was an extraordinary special individual who inspired me.

~ Mike

Mike doggedly made things (skytrain) work... Mike, you earned your place in all our hearts.

~ Alan

Whenever I see scouts selling applies, ride the Canada Line, see Pat and the kids, I will see Mike...

~ Rod

Mike was born in Victoria but lived most of his life in the lower mainland. After graduating from Semiahmoo Secondary, he went on to UBC, earning a BSc. and an MSc. in Computer Science.

He began his career at Microtel Pacific Research in 1981 where he took on increasing responsibilities until 1989, at which time he started his own business with his wife, Pat. They worked in project management and systems engineering primarily in the transit industry, including the Expo, Canada & Evergreen Lines, as well as other systems worldwide.

Mike's passions were vested with his family, Pat, Matthew, Nicholas and Sarah, and enjoyed "camping out" at their family cabin on the Sunshine Coast. He invested time and energy into volunteering with Scouts Canada. For the last 10 years, he served in various leadership roles as Beaver, Cub and Scout Leader and Venturer Advisor for 13<sup>th</sup> Ryerson in Kerrisdale, where today, his legacy is expressed in the new generation of leaders.



*Editor: special thanks to Nick and Sarah for sharing memories and pictures.*



## A PICTURESQUE ALBUM OF THE FAIRVIEW FAMILY



Nancy & Tony on "French soil" in Sept on this side of the Atlantic. Do you know where the islands are?



At a Luau, the Crisostomos and Silangs, were in Hawaii, to celebrate Flor's 65th birthday.

Alva & Earl set foot in the southern hemisphere. In Australia, they savored Melbourne, Sydney, Alice Springs, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef and met out-back ranchers who built up their cattle. Across in New Zealand, both the North and South Island/s, they breathed in Queenstown, Hamilton and Rotorua, Bay of Islands.



Mahalo to Leilani and Neal for graciously hosting several Fairview-ites this year at their lovely home and lending tour guiding in beautiful Oahu.



Shawn & Nelly, in Prague, stood reflectively on the shore, across from Charles Bridge...the scene reminiscent of a painting completed by Shawn's mother over 50 years ago.



Callum & Gabriel rode the waves on Osoyoos Lake.



Raimer, Brennan & Malcolm were "caught" frolicking on Lightning Lake in Manning Park... on their parents' iphone!

**MYANMAR**

Jan basked in the landscape of Myanmar for 3 weeks in February with an Australian study tour that specifically hoped to visit the northern Rakhine state on the Bay of Bengal. "It is hard to imagine that this poor rural area, known in the West primarily for tension between Muslim and Buddhist populations, was once the mighty ancient kingdom of Arakan...Of the luminous Shwedagon Temple in Yangon, 99 meters high covered in gold and considered one of the most impressive Buddhist shrines in the world, Somerset Maugham wrote in 1930, *'rose superb, glistening with gold, like a sudden hope in the dark night of the soul.'*"

"The river trips – traditional open air boats, decked with linen tablecloths, china and great food – provided a romantic journey...Sticky rice, garbanzo beans and coffee for breakfast...tender meat in spicy oily sauce over rice main dish...Myanmar beer costs 200KHT (\$2). Mandalay, commercial heart of the country...Bagan is a unique archeological site in S.E. Asia, the ancient capital of the Burmese Empire with an extraordinary collection of 2000 temples...A trip to Lake Inle, 22 miles long, located in the moderate Shan state in the western hills, includes an Indian village complex, Buddhist monastery and the remains of perhaps 100 temple ruins. I would love to take my family back there someday and to stay at the picturesque Viewpoint Lodge in Nyaung Shwe..."



**CHILLIWACK**

Bert writes: "We relocated here in October last year to be near our daughter, Alison, who has been a great help to us. Despite an accident in January with a broken shoulder, healing has gone well and I now have full use of my arm. In the summer, I had the privilege of conducting a wedding for my granddaughter, indeed one of many highlights to come!"

With there being no Canadian Baptist Church in the vicinity, we have decided to attend the Chilliwack United Church, a 5-minute walk from our home. I have joined the choir, which is very similar to Fairview's, and as well, the worship has a liturgical style not unlike that of Fairview. Coming up on Dec 6th, we will be hosting and participating with choirs from 6 other churches in a joint advent praise and celebration. We look forward to coming to Fairview for the annual Christmas banquet."



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

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*gathered and sent by Christ to build and make known  
 the reign of God: to love God, neighbour and self*