

HAZELMERE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



October – November 2017

A message from Rev. Lori Megley-Best

Peace and Grace to you in these beautiful Fall days. We gather together to worship to praise God and to remember our purpose as followers of Jesus. Last week one of the daily devotionals that came into my inbox reminded me that we are called to participate in God's power through prayer. I share this with you that we all might remember the power and purpose of prayer for ourselves and those we pray for.

Blessings,
Lori

I Will Pray When You Cannot **Vicki Kemper**

September 27, 2017

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." - Isaiah 43:10

Perhaps you, like me, know someone who's been wandering in the wilderness way too long.

You know, a salt-of-the-earth, long-faithful person who has done all the right things and said all the right prayers, who keeps dragging their battered heart back into the ring—only to get knocked down again. Maybe a brilliant, principled leader who, after years of trying, still hasn't landed a job. Or a glowing newlywed who has kept a stiff upper lip through one life-robbing diagnosis after another, but whose brave smile is starting to crack. A sweetheart with a great personality *and* a hot bod who remains unhappily single.

Perhaps your someone has run out of tears and is moving toward bitterness. Maybe their hurt runs so deep that churchy platitudes and comforting scriptures feel like a slap in the face. Perhaps they've stopped yelling at God because they now doubt whether God is even there.

How are we to love them?

The godly way, of course. This is our moment to

be God-with-them, Spirit with skin on. Where the word of God might sting them, we can offer our own God-inspired words, borrowed from a prophet:

I know this is awful, but I am with you in it. I will pray when you cannot. I will see you through to the other side. With God's help I will help you; I will hold you in God's love-light and never let you go.

Prayer

Ever-Present Spirit, make me an instrument of your hope for the hopeless, strength for the weak, love for the lonely, and courage for the fearful.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated in Canada on the 2nd Monday of October. Formerly known as Harvest Thanksgiving it began as a day of giving thanks for the successful harvest of the year.

In church we celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating the sanctuary. Thanksgiving reminds us of all the good things that God has given us. It is a time to share with others who are less fortunate. On October 8th members of the Hazelmere United Church are invited to bring items of food which will be collected and taken to the local food bank. Thank you for your participation.



Gospel Sing-A-Long - September 17, 2017

The gospel sing-a-long was very successful. Lori Barnson was accompanied by her mother Phyllis, her brother Gerry and Brad McDowell on some tunes. The music was very uplifting and the selection of hymns was excellent. There were 50 people in attendance - an appreciative audience. Three hundred dollars was collected and sent to the Red Cross BC Fire Appeal Relief Fund.

Coming Events...

An Evening of Music - October 22, 2017

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Three groups will be performing at "an Evening of Music - the Hazeltones, the Rusty Rails blue grass combo and the Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers. Proceeds will go the local food bank.

The Rusty Rails

Rusty Rails is a group of Canadian singers/string players from two very popular bands, "Alouette River" and the "Bullfrogs" that have entertained at festivals, concerts, charitable events and celebrations across B.C. Performing an eclectic mix of bluegrass, swing, Cajun, traditional roots, Celtic and gospel music, they combine traditional instrumentation and powerful vocals to "bring it all home".

The five-member band features Len Hatlelid on guitar, dobro and vocals; Randy Moore on mandolin, guitar and vocals; Sheldon Friesen on banjo, ukulele and vocals; Denis Leclerc on fiddle, low whistle, harmonica and vocals; and Leo Kilroe on bass, guitar and vocals.



The Hazeltones

The Hazeltones are a talented group of musicians who volunteer their time and talent to help raise money for community outreach. Since 2002 they have offered musical sing-a-longs with an old time Gospel feel. They have helped raise funds for care homes, United Churches and partners in the community.



The Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers

The Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers are a group of musicians who enjoy playing old time music. In addition to the fiddlers there are guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, piano accordion and keyboard players. It is a drop in session and new players are welcome. They practice in the church hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Experience is not required. Visitors are welcome to come and listen.



♪ **Gospel Sing-A-Long - November 19, 2017**
Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Richard Stepp is the guest performer. Richard is a professional musician with much experience with gospel music and leading sing-a-longs. He has been the lead singer, guitarist and pianist for many bands, including his own, and has played on cruise ships. Proceeds will be donated to the United Church Missionary and Service Hurricane Irma Relief Fund.

Admission for the above events will be by donation.

Carols in the Country - December 17, 2017
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (followed by refreshments in the Church Hall)

The Hazeltones will be the guest performers for **Carols in the Country**. They have played at many Christmas concerts in the past. Bring your singing voices and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas carols and music. **Tickets are \$10.00 per person.**

Silent Auction – a copy of a Robert Bateman framed print



From now until the Carols in the Country event we will be holding a silent auction to win this beautiful framed copy of a Robert Bateman print. Please sign your name, phone number and your bid amount on the paper in front of the picture in the hall and place it in the box. The winner of the picture will be announced at the end of the Carols in the Country evening.