# CCCC MONTHLY NEWS

**May 2017**

*Proclaiming Jesus Christ, Making Disciples, Growing Healthy Churches*

## Christian Community Church, Burdett, AB

The Christian Community Church in Burdett hosted their 6th annual woman's conference, under the theme; "*Who is Running in Your Crowd?*"

Melinda Taylor and Hannah Ulrich had beautiful display tables of *Living Books* and *Twigz Creations (handmade African jewelry and home décor)* which were there if we needed some good "retail therapy."

Deb Smith, an efficient M.C. opened the day with a word of welcome and prayer. Fran DenHollander, and Hannah Ulrich led us in worship. Our accomplished speaker, Diane Laubenstein shared thoughts concerning our theme. She communicated how our narrative about who we think we are, or who we have been told we are, can greatly alter who we portray, and how we influence our assigned corner of real estate. This undeniably was a good "steak" to sink your teeth into!

(Pictured left is Diane Laubenstein, speaker)

After a delicious lunch of roast beef, salads and all the trimmings (let's not forget dessert), served by Men's Ministry, our day resumed.

Helen Strugari, manager from the Champion's Center in Medicine Hat gave us a very informative question and answer session concerning the center. The Champion's center is a place where the homeless and working poor of Medicine Hat can come for a hot breakfast, a shower, get their laundry done, or use it as a place to receive their mail. No one is turned down. Every December our church family supplies, cooks and serves a hot breakfast to the guests that come. This ministry is really Helen's heartbeat, as she was once homeless herself.

Our day was concluded by Seija Strandberg. This young lady is very articulate, as she conveyed the preparations of getting ready to go on the Mexican mission house building trip. It wasn't just all the physical labour, but also the emotional experiences that touched her life.

Ineke Sytsma for Women's Ministry

## The Prairie Lily Riverboat Cruise

PASTOR & SPOUSE (optional) event at this year's conference

The Prairie Lily Riverboat Cruise provides a relaxing outing with fellowship and sightseeing along the Saskatchewan River in beautiful Saskatoon, SK. Wednesday, 5 July 2017. We hope you can join us. Departures take place at the docks from behind the former Mendal Art Gallery, which is across Spadina Crescent from Playland Park. Please meet in the hotel lobby at 3:10 pm. Boarding time is at 3:30 pm. Sailing time will be at 4:00 pm.

Website: http://www.theprairielily.com

Admission:

Adults: $ 24.00; Seniors $22.00; Ages 12-17: $22.00
Ages 2-11: $15.00

If you are interested in going on this cruise please contact our Registrar, Nancy Cowtun at ncowtun@gmail.com.

## Ordination of Pastor Melissa Boyd, April 30, at Good Shepherd Church, Lawerencetown, NS.

Melissa Boyd was ordained to Christian ministry before a packed audience on Sunday evening April 30. It was a great night of celebration with worship led by Lake Echo Fellowship and special music by the Boyd Family Singers and Leanne Williston. Rev. Gary Boyd, Melissa's father and former pastor at Good Shepherd Church brought the message. There were also numerous greetings received from our sister churches and pastors congratulating Melissa on this special moment in her life.

While growing up in Good Shepherd, Melissa volunteered many hours of service in Sunday School teaching, youth ministry and Praise and Worship. She was their Youth Leader for three summers while attending Atlantic Baptist University (Crandall).

While completing her degree in Religious Studies at Saint Mary's University, Melissa became the Youth Pastor at Good Shepherd Church, a ministry she has held for the past ten years. Pastor Melissa for the past two and a half years has been the Associate Pastor at Good Shepherd. She has held various responsibilities besides her regular youth ministries including preaching, bible teaching and pastoral care. She is well loved by her church family and the community at large.

Please pray for Good Shepherd church as they are undergoing a pastoral transition for a senior pastor.

## Upcoming Ordination Service for Pastor Ray Arsenault, at Skyway to Heaven Church, Miramichi, NB

**Sunday, May 28, 2017, at 7:00 pm**

Pastor Arsenault was a former Broadcaster with Life Radio 96.5 and 107.7 in Miramichi before accepting the call to be the pastor at Holy Trinity Church now called Skyway to Heaven Church. Ray is a graduate of Tyndale Seminary, Toronto. If you are in the Atlantic area you are cordially invited to celebrate the Ordination of Pastor Ray Arsenault. The service will take place at Skyway to Heaven Church on Sunday, May 28th at 7:00 pm.

If you cannot attend, please send your congratulatory wishes to: contactskynow@gmail.com

## Hope Congregational Christian Church, Rocanville, SK

From Hope with Hope

Spring has arrived in Saskatchewan and we are very glad to see the green grass coming and the trees starting to bud as we marvel at the change of the seasons that we see in our country.

Hope Congregation has had a busy few months. We have seen God move in our midst as we continue to be faithful to His calling.

We have just finished our "Twenty Golden Minutes " Lenten services This was an ecumenical endeavor which has been held at Hope Church for some years now. Each church denomination takes a turn each week of Lent for a short service and a soup and sandwich lunch. Again this year we had an average of 45 people coming out at 12:00 noon for this service . An offering is taken up each week for a charity within the town. A great success again!

April 2, 2017 was National CCCC Sunday. At Hope, we dedicated the whole Sunday morning service to this cause. We viewed the video which was very well done. I gave a update on the Congregational Christian Church In Canada and stressed how important it is to not to just belong to a national fellowship but to participate in the fellowship as well.

The members responded very well to the video and the presentation and the offering received was sent to our National Office.

Many members came to me after and told me to send our gratitude for the work that our National Pastor does for the fellowship. We do have a personal connection with Kathleen and we do think back to the fond memories that we have when she ministered here. We were glad to hear she continues to serve and minister from the office. The offering reflected the importance Hope Congregational Christian Church puts on the ministry from National Office. Thank you from the congregation.

Our Bible studies continue to be well attended by both men and woman. Our men's breakfast continues to increase in numbers each month and we are grateful for those who attend from the community.

The goal is to make our church visible in the community, not just a building where people meet on Sunday but a place where people can come for coffee, fellowship, prayer and hear about salvation any day of the week. We are finding that as we reach out to the community in tangible ways, they respond and we have a chance to tell them about the love of Christ. God is good.

This year, the National conference is coming to the prairies. We are looking forward to this summer in Saskatoon. Pray much for a move of God.

Pastor Paul Bunz -Lead Pastor Hope Congregational, Rocanville, SK

## Chalmers Community Church, ON

The youth from Chalmers Community Church and their upcoming trip to Haiti was recently featured in *The Kincardine Record*, http://www.kincardinerecord.com/story.php?id=4127.

A group of 16 local youth and adults is headed for Haiti to work at a school this month.

The mission trip, through "Welcome Home Haiti Canada," is being led by Phillip Craig (above centre, with Danielle McBride, left, and Alex Convay), youth pastor at Chalmers Community Church.

He is joined by adults Jill Brown, Christine Franklin, Chelsea Ferguson, and Josh Lott (of the Peterborough area) and youth members Olivia and Alex Convay, Danielle and Luke McBride, Cailyn McKay, Katie Voskamp, Jenna Franklin, Patricia and Brandon Stein, Dana Craig, and Kate Burns.

This is the first time a youth team from this area has travelled to Haiti, said Phillip Craig. Previously, it was mostly adults with a few youth going to Haiti to help build a house for a family. That is planned again for October of this year.

They will be helping with a rural school in Pillatre, near Cap Haitien," said Craig. The school feeds 1,800 children each day and it's likely the only meal they get. About 800 primary students come in the morning for classes, have lunch, and go home. And about 1,000 high school students come for lunch and go to classes in the afternoon.

## Emmanuel Congregational Church in Middleton, NS

Emmanuel hosted a 'Children's Service' on April 30. The congregation had done a great job with inviting families to the service and about 120 people (including over 30 kids) attended the service. The service included 3 short messages; each focused on one child in the Bible. The Worship Arts team had done a great job in preparing our meeting space for the event. Pictured below is how our stage looked for the event.

## From the CCCC Credentials Committee:

The vision of the CCCC is to ***Proclaim Jesus Christ, Make Disciples and Grow Healthy Churches***.

The following is a summary of the responses to the 4 discipleship questions from the Annual Church Questionnaire. In total 21 Churches responded to these questions, although not every Church that provided responses answered all the questions. Therefore, there were approximately 80 responses in total.

Looking across the range of responses there are some common themes that have been captured in this report.

- Some responses to a single question contained multiple points, e.g. Bible study, Sunday school, youth groups, etc. as a way of proclaiming Jesus Christ within our congregation. Several congregations employ this strategy.
- From the responses, it is possible to see where ministries at work in some Churches might be

adapted for application in other Churches. In particular, those highlighted in bold might pay dividends if they were more widely employed.
- In question 19, more than one church identified small numbers of congregants to be a problem. In some cases specific talents are missing, especially in the area of musical leadership.

Question 16. In what ways is your local church Proclaiming Jesus Christ by word and action within and beyond its doors?

Within:
- Bible Study / Youth Groups / Sunday School
- Bible based sermons / messages
- Small groups – mid-week
- **Free movie nights**
- Senior's ministry

Beyond:
- Inviting people to church
- Services open to the community
- Missions
- One-on-one evangelism / distribution of Bibles and tracts
- Food banks and community lunch / meal programs / homeless missions
- **Sunday messages online**
- Inter-denomination activities

Question 17. In what tangible ways is your local church intentionally making Disciples?

- Small groups and house groups
- Accountability / personal support
- **Mentoring** / pastoral visiting

Question 18. In what manner(s) is your local church reflecting a "Healthy Church"?

- Friendly, welcoming, loving, encouraging, supporting people in the congregation and in the community
- Small Churches [congregations] feel their core community is strong and dedicated with energy and maturity
- All congregations, large or small, feel their messages and ministries are Gospel-focussed and they are doing what Churches are called to do in the wider community

Question 19. What are the areas where your local church may need more growth to better reflect a 'Healthy Church' (i.e. statistics and/or your answers can reflect room for improvement or areas which you can address)?

- Reach those beyond the church doors
- Need for greater evangelism
- Discipleship, spiritual and numerical growth.
- Flexibility in worship / more musicians
- Younger families and / or generally, more people
- Growth through conversions not transfers

Respectfully submitted,

The Credentials Committee