

Tsawwassen United Church

Third Sunday After Pentecost / First Nations Sunday

June 21, 2009, 10:00 AM

Pentecost Season. During this time we reflect on the gift of the Holy Spirit who prompts and guides the Christian community through a long season of growth in discipleship and service.

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked “*”, those who are able are invited to stand.*

WE GATHER

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

In My Heart *(with Sandra Dawn Johannson)*

~ Ann Mortifee

*HYMN: We Praise You, O God

VU 218

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME *(with Brenda Miller)*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

*SONG: Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

VU 308

CONNECTING TO OUR HEART'S LONGING:

Spirit of the Wind *(with Sandra Dawn Johannson)*

~ Brooke Medicine Eagle

SILENT PRAYER

THE WITNESS OF SCRIPTURE:

Acts 11–15, selected verses

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES:

“Letting Go and Holding on as Communities of faith”

WE PRAY

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN:

Creator God, you are with us in bright sunshine
— in the sparkle on winter trees.

Creator, come to us.

As we stand alone at the side of a river,
struggling with direction in our lives,

Creator, come to us.

As we witness pain in the lives of our people,
as we wait for change founded on respect and gentleness,
a healing place,

Creator, come to us.

Leader: In our humility as we struggle with our self-esteem,

Creator, come to us.

In a blizzard, touch and uplift us,
in the gushing wind, bring us healing.

Creator, come to us.

In Christian ways and in Traditional ways,
in wind and grass, in birds that fly and in our places of prayer.

Creator, come to us.

In our quiet places,
in the longing of a child for the love of a parent,

Creator, come to us.

We see you in the pain of peoples in prison,
caught in structures of injustice. Help us to bring healing.

Creator, come to us as our hearts and minds are joined in the circle.

~ From "The Dancing Sun Volume, I "

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS *(with Melanie Williams)*

*HYMN: Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

ONE LAST WORD:

Creator,

We give thanks that you speak to us
in our own ways, in our own traditions.

Thank you that you also speak through
the traditions of others.

Help us to see your love in all things
and to be guided with loving hearts
to do that which is best in our homes and
in our communities.

~ From "The Dancing Sun, Volume VI"

BLESSING *(with Sandra Dawn Johannson)*

SENDING FORTH

Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

693 53rd Street, Delta, BC ❖ 604-943-2911 ❖ E-mail: info@tsawwassenunited.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Contacts

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Minister: | Rose-Hannah Gaskin604-943-2911 rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org |
| Minister of Children & Families: | Brenda Miller 604-274-2864brendammiller1@gmail.com |
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| Pastoral Care Contact: | Jean Ryan 604-948-9880 |
| Prayer Requests: | Ethel604-943-2949 or Rhoda..... 604-943-1674 |

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 21, 2009

*The flowers on the communion table today are placed in memory of
Jim Richardson by his wife Mary and family.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT T.U.C.

TODAY **Kinsmen Centre Service – at 9:30 a.m.**

Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.



Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C. Conference – Today we pray for Wilson Heights United Church, the Reverend Blake Fields and Staff Associate Rosemary Collins.

TUE. **Study of the Book of Acts – from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

WED. **Study of the Book of Acts – from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

THURS. **Study of the Book of Acts – from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

NEXT SUN. **Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.** Scripture readings: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27; Psalm 130 (VU pgs. 852–853); 2 Corinthians 8:7–15; Mark 5:21–43.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

• LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet next **Monday, June 29th, at 11:00 a.m.** The guest speaker will be Osteoft Coordinator Debbie Cheong, from Winskill Aquatic and Fitness Centre. Osteoft, a specially designed exercise and education program, is geared towards, although not restricted to, those with osteoporosis. This will be the last Lunch Bunch get-together until September, so please plan to attend. Bring a bag lunch.

- **RE-ARRANGING OUR STORAGE SPACES!**

On **Thursday, July 2nd**, we will be sorting our church storage cupboards and rearranging our spaces. On **Friday, July 3**, we'll be throwing, moving and dumping! I would love to have your help, please call me 604-943-4349.

~ Mary Sambell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CONGRATULATIONS!**

With much happiness Clark and Freda Wise will celebrate their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 24th.

- **PIES**

Inquiries have been received regarding the commencement of pie making. Joanne Harris is happy to report that the first session will be this Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. This project largely depends on availability of fruit, so donations of fruit are most welcome. Anyone going to the Okanagan this summer (*hint, hint*)? Or have some fruit trees in your back yard? Joanne will be picking strawberries this Tuesday afternoon. If you would like to join her, let her know (604-943-4326). This is a fun project and a lucrative fund-raiser.



- **PRAYER FLAG**

The Worship Committee of General Council 40 in Kelowna asked each congregation of the United Church of Canada to contribute a prayer flag to enhance the worship environment at GC40. Their hope is to use these prayer flags as a symbol of the unity of United Churches across Canada. The prayer flag we send will be joined with others and will encircle their gathering space for the seven days they are a community. Melanie Williams has made a prayer flag for TUC as our gift for General Council. The prayer flag is based on the concept of the Tibetan wind horse flag. Christian symbols with similar meaning have been used in place of the traditional Tibetan symbols. The wind horse prayer flag's purpose is to raise the good fortune energy, the uplifting life force energies and opportunities that make things go well. When life force energies are low, obstacles arise, when life force energies are high, good opportunities abound. In the centre, where the Wind Horse would be, a dove has been placed, following the pattern of the dove on one of our stained glass windows at TUC. The Wind Horse flags traditionally have the four corners guarded by The Four Dignities — four animals representing awareness and vast vision, confidence and power, joy, humility. In place of these are the sign of the fish for awareness and vision, an anchor for confidence, a butterfly for joy and a cross with mandorla for humility and power. Colours representing space, air, fire, water and earth radiate out from the dove the way that the blue glass radiates out in our window.

- **CELEBRATION THANKS!**

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make Celebration Sunday a wonderful day of thanksgiving and gift-sharing. Thank you Bonnie and Bob Tarlton, and all the kitchen angels who cooked, served lunch, washed dishes and put

Minutes for Mission

Right Relations

Today we celebrate First Nations' Sunday. The Rev. Maggie McLeod serves the Saugeen Pastoral Charge in Hamilton Conference and writes to you today:

Thank you to all who contribute to the Mission and Service Fund. Without your gifts, Aboriginal ministry within The United Church of Canada would not exist.

Having experienced centuries of colonization, First Nation communities are reeling from change that affects their mind, body, spirit, and emotions. Aboriginal people throughout Canada experience social, economic, and health crises disproportionate to other Canadians. In such a context, Aboriginal ministry plays a vital role in many First Nation communities across Canada, reaching well beyond the congregation to meet the diverse needs of community.

The United Church of Canada has provided leadership at the national level by urging the Canadian government toward a more just relationship with Aboriginals through its involvement in negotiating the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Importantly, this partnership is being lived out at the grassroots level as well, with Mission and Service Fund support for part-time and full-time ministries.

I have had the privilege to serve in two such pastoral charges and have found a deep sense of connection to the land and of "being home" for members of these communities. Families that have been away for many years come back to celebrate God's presence in life and in death. Those who have remained in the community have experienced the movement toward acceptance and been nurtured by ministry and mission that is culturally meaningful. This is vital as they seek to rebuild their sense of who they are as the beloved people of God.

Thanks to your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund, the United Church is present in these communities, affirming its commitment toward building authentic relationships.

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Minutes for Mission 2009 is published by the Financial Stewardship Unit as a resource for the Mission and Service Fund.

Stewardship Seconds

Good stewards are careful not to put obstacles in others' ways.