



The Three “Ships”

You have heard of the Nina, Pinta and the Santa Maria. They are the three ships that Columbus used back in 1492 to traverse the Atlantic and reach the new world. We, too, have arrived in a new world – and it is not so much a brave new world.

If this year has taught us anything, it is the importance of three more important “ships”: membership, worship and fellowship. As the pandemic hit and we were forced to close church services, we missed being able to worship together. By necessity, our membership was forced to find alternate ways to worship and fellowship.

Recently I came across a church Bulletin from the last service we were able to attend before the COVID-19 lockdown. As the lockdown began, we anticipated that it would only last a short time and we would be back to normal soon. The reality was something vastly different as we all now know.

At a special meeting, the Na-

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tional Council determined on March 18 that all services in Canada, including Passover and the spring Holy Days, would be cancelled until further notice. Pastors and congregants were left scrambling. Greater numbers than usual of Passover instructions were mailed from the National Office. Then, as restrictions in some jurisdictions began to relax, the National Council instructed that the Ministerial Services Team put together a protocol for Pastors to use for reopening services.

This protocol required Pastors first of all to follow all requirements of their local jurisdiction. It included a checklist. Additionally, each church congregation was to be aware of and follow the guidelines required by the owners of the hall the local congregation it was renting. The overall intent was to balance the need of providing worship services to the membership while keeping them as safe as possible from the virus dangers at hand.

This year's Feast of Tabernacles was very different because of the many restrictions. While some were able to attend a Feast site, others were not. Very few were able to transfer. It was a time for learning many different lessons. For one thing, we learned the value of worship, fellowship and membership.

Having the option to connect

to a service online is a wonderful benefit, but it does not replace the privilege of meeting in a building with other like-minded individuals. Having the ability to have Zoom fellowship was wonderful when we had not seen each other for so long, but it doesn't replace being able to actually meet together in person!

Being a church member is more than just going to church and following some rules. Being a church member means we learn to work together in love – each doing our part to make the service successful. It means that we get to know each other better so we can pray more effectively for one another. Even though watching and listening to church online helps in many ways, it still has its limitations.

Most congregations have been able to resume services and, thankfully, there have been no problems with virus outbreaks as a result. Some brethren of necessity are staying away. They are in a high risk category and cannot return to in-person services until it is absolutely safe to do so. Others are very excited to once again be meeting together each week although conditions are less than ideal. As the second wave hits, let us pray that we can one day fully resume our worship, fellowship and membership!

Anthony Wasilkoff

Surrey, BC

This year of 2020 has been turbulent to say the least. Through a year of upheavals, one constant remained: God's Holy Days. In Surrey, British

Columbia, we rejoiced at God's appointed Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day.

Sermons at God's Feasts are of primary importance. Festival

As 2020 has been a year of many distractions, eight days of focusing on God's Word were sorely needed.

Surrey attendees who were able enjoyed many outside activities together and were blessed with pleasant fall weather. On Monday, a restaurant and ocean walk day offered lots of inspired and warm fellowship. Tuesday mini golf saw us exhorting one another to do our best and overcome the worst. Golf is a humbling game!



photo by Ralph Cortes

Columbia, we rejoiced at God's appointed Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day.

An average of 20 attended services. Those from greater Vancouver welcomed brethren from the Victoria congregation. Victoria elder, Peter Corrigan, and his wife, Wendy, joined us for the last four days, having spent the first half at the Osoyoos Feast site.

Many described this year's Feast as more "intimate." The smaller numbers were due to British Columbia-only resi-

Coordinator David Palmer set the tone on opening day, speaking of a "more perfect tabernacle." His message told us that at the Feast God is working on us through inspired messages, and thus building a more perfect tabernacle, a better us!

We were also encouraged to: fight the good fight of faith, work out our own salvation, persevere towards the Kingdom, strive to be peacemakers, discern the end times, be a holy people, and anticipate the restitution of all things (Acts 3:19, NKJV).



provided by Gyslane Palmer

UNITED NEWS CANADA

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On Wednesday we enjoyed over an hour of five-pin bowling: “Focus on the head pin like you focus on God’s Kingdom!” Starting from three-year-old Talia and six-year-old Timmy, children of Richard and Maureen Shiundu, everyone had a lot of fun!

Family-style restaurants near

our church building allowed other opportunities for breaking bread together (Acts 2:46, NKJV).

Thanks go to Festival Coordinator, David Palmer and his wife, Ghyslaine, and to all for making it a wonderful Feast experience! Most of all

we thank God the Father and Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Moving forward, we keenly wait for the glorious appearing of our Saviour and coming King, Jesus Christ.

Dale Craniford

Osoyoos, BC

It would be reasonable to say nobody in the modern era of the church has experienced a festival year like this one. We all watched in amazement as this horrible virus overtook the world and did not stop at the church doors. Services shut down around the world and even impacted the Passover and God’s spring Holy Days.

Then, after observing Pentecost at home, we all took a long look down the road to autumn and held our breath for just a moment. Could it? Could this pandemic actually threaten the Feast of Tabernacles, or at least impact it in some way? I am sure many of us at that time were already getting the sense that it was probable. Through most of the summer, we refrained from committing to any changes. But by the beginning of August it was clear that we had to alter our Feast plans. Sadly, in British Columbia, this saw the Osoyoos Lake Feast site fall to a mere 50 people allowed in attendance by Feast time even though it had enjoyed being the

first Feast registry on the globe to fill up to capacity.

The first thing we realized is that it was highly unlikely anyone from the United States would be able to join us this year when international border restrictions ordered all who crossed to isolate for 14 days

The next and most significant difficulty was how we were going to comply with the BC government order restricting any gathering to 50 people. This was like being handed a shoe box and being told everything in the room must now fit in to it. Obviously, that could not be done. So, we had no choice but

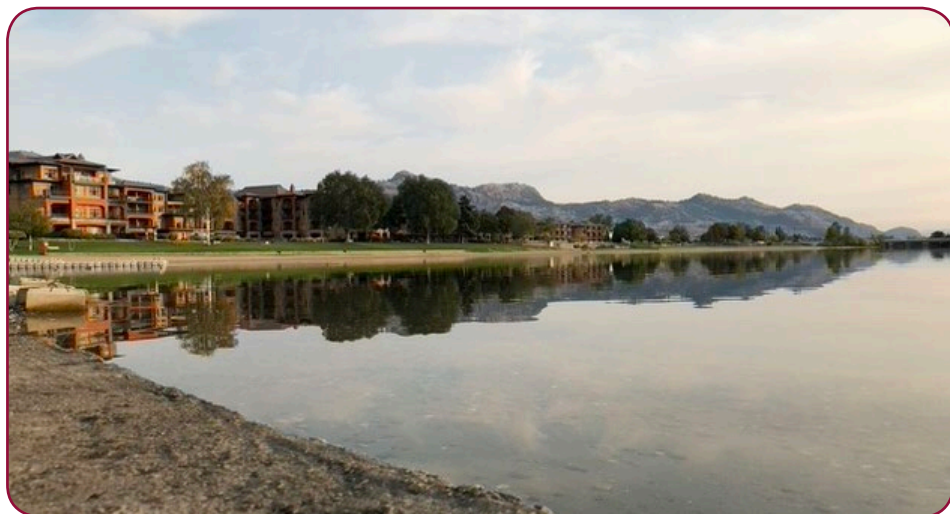


photo by Wayne Ward

before venturing into public or joining any event or gathering. This presented us with a difficult situation because many of our elders, speakers and other volunteers were American.

restrict the attendance. We determined that restricting it to only BC residents was the fairest way to begin.

Then, once the provision was made for all BC members, we



photo by Warren Poffenroth

church elder; without which we would not have been able to conduct official church services. Peter Corrigan, an elder from Victoria, was only able to stay with us for half the Feast as he served the other half in Surrey. We were also able bring in Rob Eckert and Dan Paquette from Edmonton as additional speakers.

So, despite the challenges, the Feast went on and was enjoyed

would reopen the registry to others. We did this by opening two additional satellite sites to effectively raise the capacity to 150, and this proved to be sufficient. Feast Coordinator, David Palmer, opened Surrey and assistant coordinator, Wayne Ward, opened Kelowna a two-hour drive north of Osoyoos.

With the valuable organiza-



photo by Wayne Ward



provided by Rob Teetaert

tional talents of Karen Erickson and Sue Morgan in Kelowna, Wayne was able to stay in Osoyoos to manage the services. With the IT expertise of National Council member, Jeff Anderson, we provided a webcast which was then a vital link for Kelowna and many others who were not able to attend in-person services because of the restrictions and the cancellation of other provincial Feast sites.

This solution also enabled Warren Poffenroth from Calgary to stay on as a resident

by all, and was just as spiritually enriching as if we were at any site in any normal year. No large activity gatherings were planned. Rather, families and small groups of friends went out to enjoy the area attractions of boating, golfing, horseback riding, winery tours, go karting and even just hanging out around the pool with brethren.

It turns out you don't need a lot. If you are able to enjoy the company and love of just a few brethren, you have it all.

Wayne Ward

Cochrane, AB

The Feast in Cochrane went very smoothly. We had a high attendance of 139 with about 150 registered. Because of social distancing, we had to use an overflow room that had two

The weather was great. Everyone stayed healthy. There were only a few anointings.

The music was good. We had three pianists as well as

crossing restrictions.

The messages were excellent and the theme of the Kingdom of God was developed. We posted all of the sermons online about a day after they were given. The Home Office videos were excellent. We played them both on Friday and the Welcome Video on opening night.

The only organized activities we had were a young adults/teen study which Sheldon Sitter conducted and two festival youth instructions taken care of by Susan Davis, a school teacher. A moose walked past during festival youth instruction when the kids were outside. Also, we were blessed to have two baptisms. We had no coffee service, but did provide bottled water which was available by the two entrances. People were generous with donations so the cost was covered for the water and the masks.

We did have a collection box for three days during the Feast so people could donate to the lo-

large televisions and one large screen which was hooked up by HDMI cable from the main meeting room. We webcast each day with 30-plus connections. Additionally, we had a phone hook-up for between six and nine who did not have computers. Our technical crew did a fantastic job!

We had three greeters at a table at the entrance, past the hand sanitizer station. They had the registration list which we kept for possible contact tracing. For any who had not registered, the greeters took down their contact information. We required masks to be worn when entering, exiting, and while singing congregational hymns. Glen Klassen was on security and made sure that those entering had masks.

a music ensemble that stayed compliant with the church's COVID-19 music guidelines. It was wonderful to also have the three selections of the adult virtual choir plus the two children's choir pieces of special music. Owen Davis coordinated the music since Ralph Redline was not able to come because of the border



photo provided by Rainder Salomaa



photo by Rob Teetaert



photo by Rob Teelaert

cal food bank. We subsequently received a nice thank you from them for the donation.

There was a Holy Day offering box at the entrance before and after services on both Holy Days so that no offering baskets were passed around. The housing survey was done after the Feast by email.

Here are a few overall comments from the survey forms:

- *The location was fantastic, very quiet and picturesque.*
- *We really enjoyed the Feast of Tabernacles in Cochrane. It is*

close to Calgary and the Rockies for hiking, activities and shopping.

- *God definitely placed his hand over the site and blessed the speaking and fellowship.*
- *This is the very first time using an Airbnb. I would use one again in a heartbeat. There is way more room to entertain than a hotel room.*
- *Well planned Feast, even with the cumbersome health restrictions in place. A real blessing to still be able to gather for worship, praise and encouragement!*

• *The Feast is at a beautiful location, not too far from Banff, Lake Louise, and Calgary.*

• *Cochrane has some very good restaurants.*

• *The Feast itself was nicely managed thanks to the efforts of the coordinator and the receiving/ushering staff, especially in the difficult environment of COVID-19 restrictions. The spirit of the Feast was a bit low key but inspiring nonetheless. Great opportunities for social fellowship, albeit in small cohort groups, afterwards. We enjoyed this Feast very much.*

• *The scenery around the hall was amazing.*

• *We enjoyed the FOT in Cochrane, the messages, fellowship and the location. We also enjoyed our side-trip in Banff with snow on Monday.*

Plans have already been made for the Feast in 2021, which will once again be held in Drumheller.

Rainer Salomaa

Saskatoon, SK

This year three churches, North Battleford and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Lethbridge, Alberta, came together to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in Saskatoon. This year's Feast was unique in that we also had to focus on abiding by the Sas-

katchewan COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

The Feast began with 37 attendees meeting in a beautifully decorated hall that was large enough for COVID-19 friendly services and meals together.

We were blessed with live special music every day which was both emotional and inspiring. We also had live speakers for both the sermonettes and sermons. The theme of the sermonettes and the sermon series walked us through God's plan

for the Millennium and beyond. Learning about our future destiny, our hope and our rule with Jesus Christ was built on each day throughout the Feast.

An added blessing was near perfect weather each and every day of the Feast giving us beautiful fall scenery.



provided by Maureen DeLong



photo by Maureen DeLong

Those planning activities were creative and found COVID-19 friendly activities to do as a group. The activities included an indoor/outdoor games afternoon, a road rally through the beautiful countryside around Saskatoon and a trip to a youth Bible camp. Activities at the camp included, a couple of corn mazes, petting zoo, potato cannons, hay ride, peddle go-carts and a life-size replica of the tabernacle Moses built in the wilderness. On Friday afternoon we had a Film Festival

comprised of various short clips of inspirational real-life stories.

This year's Feast was a wonderful, intimate Feast due to our small group. Everyone got to know each other much better. It was like a happy family get together. Sadly a few of our members were unable to attend due to age and illness. Donna Grieves, Theresa Duhan and Debbie McAdam were noticeably missed.

Larry DeLong

Spencerville, ON

A small, but excited group of brethren kept this year's Feast of Tabernacles together in Spencerville, Ontario.

On the first Holy Day, 11 people gathered together in the home of Joseph and Mary Moulton and started the Feast off with a beautiful table setting and delicious catered meal. We ate lasagna, rolls, salad and three different types of pie for



photo by Julie Morasse

dessert! Afterward, the brethren tuned into Panama City Beach for the webcast for services.

Many different members visited each other throughout the Feast and the caterer brought a different, tasty meal each day. What a feast!

On the Last Great Day, we had seven attendees for the morning service and five for the afternoon service. In between services, the caterer brought us soup with rolls, and again, we had three different types of pie with dessert squares and coffee.

All of the messages were very uplifting and encouraging. Despite all that is going on in the world right now, our God most definitely blessed and fed us both spiritually and physically at the Feast this year!

Courtney Morasse

Venise-en-Québec

The Québec brethren were deeply blessed by being able to hold the Feast of Tabernacles in Venise-en-Québec this year. The temperature was good, and the tree leaf colours astounding.

Each day we were able to gather in the common rooms to get

by video conference every day.

Different individuals prepared meals for each day of the Feast. People contributed by preparing dishes, giving a financial contribution and cleaning up applying as best as possible the hygienic measures. We fellowshiped in

winter clothes. We felt the generosity throughout all of the Feast.

We had a good variety of speakers touching different past, present and future elements of the Feast of Tabernacles. We shared two days of video conferences with the site of Roquebrune-sur-Argens, France. Every day we had connections with the brethren in Africa and those who stayed home in Québec. We had the message of Mr. Kubik on the Kingdom with the voice over by Mrs. Maryse Pebworth. We alternated services; one day in the morning, the next in the afternoon. There was a Bible study on Tuesday evening. We had a miniature tabernacle on display in the main meeting hall.

For activities family members played pool, golf, social games, walked in nature and viewed a family movie.

These times of refreshment were deeply appreciated by our brothers and sisters, thanks to our marvellous Father.

Bruno Leclerc



photo by Bruno Leclerc

precious spiritual and physical nourishment. People had eight days to get to know each other in respectful and joyous sharing of hopes and dreams about the Kingdom of God. We had an average attendance of 25 plus six to eight other people being present

the different living rooms, in the big dining room or in the condos. We had a BBQ on the terraces.

Some members decided to help a recently arrived brother from Africa to get ready for the coming winter by buying him appropriate

St. John's, NL

The Feast of Tabernacles at the local Feast site in historic St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, proved to be a positive and uplifting experience despite restrictions from COVID-19. In all, 22 from the "Atlantic Bubble" were able to assemble with social distancing and masks in a local hotel and receive the webcast from the Panama City Beach Feast site. For the most part the technology worked well for us. We appreciated being able to view the "Faces and Places" segments of the webcast before each service.

Since we were restricted by the "Atlantic Bubble" because of COVID-19, being able to keep the Feast online as a group was a real blessing in so many ways.

The various speakers at the Panama City Beach festival site gave us a rich "smorgasbord" of our future in the soon-coming Kingdom of God as emphasized by our president, Mr. Victor Kubik, in his address to us on that subject. We were able to experience a taste of the unity and peace that will eventually abound on this earth.



photo by Michelle Vautour

At our local site, we were able to enjoy a variety of activities designed for all ages. We were also able to gather at a local Lions Club for a Family Day Social. There was no cooking of our traditional "Jigg's Dinner" this year. Instead, it was a COVID-19-style bring-your-own lunch. Cage Bingo, word games, and a sing-along filled out our evenings.

Other activities included a pre-service meal at Swiss Chalet, on the first day, an afternoon of bowling, the indoor adventure park and visits to some Provincial sites. There was also

time to enjoy our spectacular coastal views. The younger children spent lots of time in the outdoors at local parks feeding the ducks and enjoying the play equipment.

On the Eighth Day we were able to round out the festival by enjoying a meal together between services provided by the restaurant in the hotel where services were held.

Many thanks to all who made the Feast go so smoothly.

Ellsworth and Dorothy Stanley

2020 National Conference Annual General Meeting

As required by our Bylaws and the Canadian government, the United Church of God – Canada held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, September 13, 2020, via Zoom. The meeting commenced at 12:02 pm EDT with an opening prayer.

Chairman Larry DeLong related that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic limitations and restrictions many had to keep the Passover at home this year with one couple noting, "It was like this 50 years ago before there was a congregation."

The Director of Operations, Anthony Wasilkoff, then gave his address. He reminisced about church hockey tournaments in past years. There was a ritual of putting on equipment. It had to be done in the right order because if you forgot something you had to start

over. This holds a parallel to the armour of God. It, too, must be put on correctly. There is one more item we must put on, that is the cloak of zeal. He asked how we can better apply zeal.

John 2:13-17 is a powerful example. Zeal is ardour for a person, object or cause, eager desire, or enthusiastic due diligence. We are required to live godly lives. We are to be zealous for good works. We must exude zeal for God's way of life and the work.

2 Corinthians 9:1-2 states "your zeal has stirred up the majority." Zeal done correctly affects others. Zeal also carries a project through to completion. Mr. Wasilkoff concluded his address citing the example of a contractor who was about to retire. He had one last request from a long-time friend and employer to build one last house. But this time the contractor's heart wasn't in it. He used substandard materials and his workmanship was rather shoddy. When the house was completed the employer handed the contractor the key to the front door saying that this was his new house. If only the contractor had known the house he was building would become his own, he would have undoubtedly done a better job. We must similarly exude zeal to complete our spiritual work.

Paul Wasilkoff gave an update on behalf of the Media Team. He cited the parable of the sower; we broadcast but

do not know where the fertile ground is located. We pray for God's guidance. We currently have a few major efforts to proclaim the Gospel in Canada: the television program on Vision and Hope networks and direct mail (through our Subscriber Development Letters [SDLs]). Our costs for mailing the SDLs are less since we own our mailing list. The past 52 weeks of TV programs were analyzed and explained. Prophetic-themed programs do well overall. The response summaries are also shared with the Home Office. Internet responses from June to August 2020 were also analyzed and explained. Some efforts were more successful than others. Portable Document Format (PDF) is the most popular download format. "God's Holy Plan" is the most downloaded study aid just ahead of "Is God a Trinity?"

Rainer Salomaa gave a Ministerial Services Team (MST) update. The world has changed; a year ago we could not imagine how things could have changed. There have been several Zoom meetings over the past several months including a number of elders and covering a number of subjects. Anthony and Linda Wasilkoff visited the Calgary church for their 25th anniversary as a United Church of God – Canada congregation. Many congregations across Canada are now meeting, or will be soon, with best practices in place. The planned visit to Alberta after the Feast

by Beyond Today presenter Darris McNeely has been necessarily postponed. In spite of all this, there have been new inquiries about Sabbath services. Mid-week Bible Studies are more prevalent. Sheldon Sitter has been hired full-time by the church as an elder serving much of Western Canada. A memorial service for a member in Winnipeg was done via Zoom; that may become the new normal. Mr. Salomaa also cited Psalm 46:1-11.

Treasurer Bill Dimovski gave the next address. He read the opinion section of the Auditor's Report. The auditor reviews internal controls and views a suitable sample size of records. Mr. Dimovski then gave an update on the current financial situation of the United Church of God – Canada. While our First Tithe/Offering income is up our Holy Day Offerings are down for the current fiscal year. But overall there is an increase in revenue of 3.5 percent while overall expenses are down 10.7 percent. He reported that the office had a higher than usual TMI (Taxes, Maintenance and Insurance) charge in January mainly because of a roof repair. Furthermore, he reported that some GICs were purchased from RBC. Fall Holy Days offerings are a "wild card". Re-opening of Sabbath services will affect our expenses. Next year's budget planning will commence shortly after the Feast.

Chairman Larry DeLong

gave the final address. Zoom and Google meetings are new to most members. Contacting other members has increased. We need to be relevant. God commands we keep the Feast. Satan wants us to not do so. We must keep the church connected. We have been blessed in many ways including financially. According to the Barna Group, 20 percent of churches will close due to declining attendance and finances. It seems connections were not as deep as originally thought. Simply reopening a church does not fix any underlying issues. Close to 10 percent of churches saw donations drop by 70 percent or more. He cited Philippians 4:19 "But my God will sup-

ply your every need according to His riches." We have faith in that Scripture. We need to thank God in prayer. Jesus Christ's return is closer than when the pandemic began. Last year Rainer Salomaa talked about focus in his address. It's important that our focus is in serving God and servicing the Church.

Other business included setting the date for the next AGM. By general consent, Sunday, September 12, 2021, was approved as the date of the next AGM either by teleconference or by other electronic means.

New and returning Council members were also approved by

general consent. New Council members are Cindy Ridi (lay member) and Sheldon Sitter (elder). They replaced Stan Kitt and Larry DeLong whose terms ended. Jim Lucas was returned as an elder. Their terms will expire at the close of the AGM in 2023.

Finally, by general consent, the National Conference approved using the firm of Marsh Goulding Chartered Accountants for next year's audit and approved the auditor's remuneration.

The meeting terminated at 1:37 p.m. (EDT) after a closing prayer.

Edwin van Pelt

National Council September Meeting

The National Council meeting commenced at 2:11 p.m. (EDT) on September 13, shortly after the Annual General Meeting of the National Conference ended.

New Council members (Cindy Ridi and Sheldon Sitter) were welcomed. Larry DeLong's and Stanley Kitt's service on the National Council was acknowledged.

The following were approved: the minutes from the June 2020 Council meeting, the minutes from the July 2020 meeting and the executive minutes from the December 2019 meeting.

The T3010 Charities Return form was reviewed. A question was asked about one line item. Treasurer Bill Dimovski stated that this will be clarified prior to the form being submitted.

The auditor's reimbursement for next year was discussed and approved.

The Treasurer, Bill Dimovski, proposed changing our budget from cash basis to accrual basis. He was asked send a note to Council members explaining the difference and showing the changes. The change would not materially affect our financial reporting. Most members pre-

ferred to learning more before making a decision.

The 2020-2021 Strategic Plan was discussed. It was seconded and approved.

The Chairman then read National Council Policy Guideline 10.9 for nominating and selecting a chairman.

Lloyd Teetaert was ultimately chosen to serve a term as Council Chairman.

The meeting closed at 2:57 p.m. after a closing prayer.

Edwin van Pelt



National Council COVID-19 Discussion

On Monday, July 6, the National Council held a video meeting to discuss the COVID-19 situation as it relates to The United Church of God – Canada. Several business items were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was prompted by news from our insurance broker a few days prior that neither UCG-Canada nor anyone else can obtain liability coverage specifically for COVID-19. This was confirmed during a meeting with our health insurance broker. She stated that while travel insurance can still be purchased there is no coverage for COVID-19 related healthcare.

Some congregations had begun to hold services once again, strictly following local and provincial guidelines as well as guidelines from the Ministerial

Services Team. Some owners of meeting halls across Canada have protocols in place that also have to be followed. Several hall owners have indicated they are not yet ready to begin renting their facilities. Some owners of halls require waivers and others do not. In some locations we are the only renters of the hall; other locations have multiple groups meeting on Saturday and Sunday.

Several pastors polled those who attend services to find out their thoughts and concerns. While many members are very much looking forward to meeting at Sabbath services once again, some are not comfortable due to health and susceptibility issues.

In addition to the usual protocols of frequent and thorough

hand-washing, there are also provisions requiring the wearing of masks at services and the provision of hand sanitizers. In some instances, there are other requirements from hall owners and various levels of government with some jurisdictions also requiring contact tracing.

The Council discussed use of a waiver for those attending services. It was felt most members would be willing to sign one. This could at least remind everyone of potential risks. Placing large “stop” signs at the entrance to meeting halls was also discussed and encouraged.

The Ministerial Services Team will provide pastors with updated information as it becomes available.

Edwin van Pelt

News From Across Canada

Toronto Feast of Trumpets

In this challenging time we live in, the global pandemic that took hold of the whole world altered the way we conduct our lives. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to carry on our weekly Sabbath services via Zoom. However, we so cherish the time we are able to fellowship with our brethren face to face.

On September 19, 2020, the Toronto brethren finally held

their first live assembly since the government enforced COVID-19 restrictions in the general Toronto area. It had been six months since we last saw each other face-to-face. There was much joy that filled the whole place. We were a family reunited once more and happy to join together again in unity for our common belief in God and, on this very special occasion, celebrating the Feast of Trumpets.

With the special help of Charles Desgrosseilliers, some

members came as early as two hours in advance to ensure that proper protocols of disinfection were carried out before and after services. The church also had to abide with the building owner's additional imposed regulations. Chairs were arranged to allow proper social distancing and supplies, masks and PPE were available.

The Toronto church choir has through the years been known for their lovely melodious voices. But this time as we abide COVID restrictions the choir was

visibly absent and in its place pre-recorded music was played. Although we were not allowed to sing, some of us sang the words in our hearts and minds as we listened to the beautiful rendition of the hymns and the special music "With the Sound of Trumpets."

The offertory message was given by Anthony Wasilkoff. It focused on the watchman who blows the trumpet as a warning. The church serves as a watchman and gives warning to save lives.

The main message was brought by Paul Wasilkoff, "An important monument for Observing Trumpets." It reminded us that the Holy Day or first day of the seventh month is to be a memorial, not a past event to be remembered but of a future event to come. With the trumpet sound – with the thundering blast of God's voice – Jesus Christ will return to this earth to usher in God's kingdom. And what a wonderful time that will be!

Despite everything that is happening right now, we know that ultimately God is in control and His great plan and purpose shall stand. We therefore should not fear but remain steadfast on our faith. Focus on our future, our eternal destiny with God.

After the church service, members moved outside to continue with their fellowship. As was their favourite spot even

in times past, the parking lot seemed to be a place where members congregate long after services had ended. With fervent hope we looked forward to meeting each other again for our next live service.

Amy van Zant

Wedding Anniversaries

On Sabbath, July 18, the North Battleford congregation honoured Walter and Anne Zamonsky and Richard and Marlene Hiebert for their wedding anniversaries. The Zamonskys were married 60 years on June 15, and the Hieberts were married 50 years on May 2. The couples were presented with flowers and anniversary cakes.

Walter and Anne Zamonsky were married on June 15, 1960. They have been long-time members of God's Church and have served the church faithfully. Walter worked in the construction industry while Anne was a homecare provider when

they lived in Lloydminster. After their retirement, Walter and Anne relocated to North Battleford to shorten the drive on the Sabbath. The Zamonskys have one daughter.

Richard and Marlene Hiebert were married May 2, 1970. They have been members of God's Church in North Battleford since the 70's. Richard had a career in teaching and also served as principal in many locations. Marlene worked in banking and managed a local BMO branch for some time. They are both now retired. They have four adult children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Adeline Sanoy

Zoomland

Though the pandemic has been challenging and difficult, it has not prevented us from having weekly Sabbath services. Modern technology allows us to meet virtually and fellowship with the brethren via Zoom.



photo by Adeline Sanoy

We have met new friends and acquaintances, friends from far and wide, brethren from Lexington, Kentucky, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Ontario and yes, from as far away as Scotland and India. All around the world! What a wonderful blessing indeed!

The Lexington brethren have worked tirelessly to provide us with a combined Sabbath service – a service that includes a sermonette, sermon, Bible Study and beautiful special music. Kudos go to them for a job well done!

Mr. Jorge de Campos along with his wife, Cathy, pastors the Lexington congregation. It has been both an honour and pleasure to serve alongside Mr. de Campos. He has been in the church for many years, and his love for God and the brethren is abundantly evident.

His life's experiences have moulded and shaped him into the wonderful pastor he is today. He is a well-respected and humble mentor to my husband and myself.

Thank you dear brethren, who diligently seek to hear the word of God and the faith once delivered and still being preached throughout the land, even if it is "Zoomland."

Jo-Anne Read

Fergusson Obituary

Cathy Fergusson was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, on

July 3, 1948. She was the second eldest of six children. After her third child, Cathy, her husband and their children relocated to Oshawa, Ontario. For over 30 years, she worked with the Durham Region Social Services in the daycare department and later as an Assistant in the Early Childhood Education department before her retirement in 2013.



provided by Amy van Zant

In the mid-1980s, Cathy and her family attended the World-wide Church of God where she was baptized. She continued until the early 1990s then left with her family. However in 2013 while searching for the Worldwide Church of God, she found the United Church of God and she began attending that fall. From that time, Cathy faithfully attended services and only missed services due to illness. She was faithful, active and found many ways to be of service to the congregation.

When visiting other congregations in various cities many miles away from home, she never complained about the distance and would always ensure that her dog, Jack, was in the care of a friend or family member. She loved Jack and would spend much time outside with him in the summer. Jack demanded her time and attention as well and sometimes refused to get out of the car, until she took him back to the park.

Cathy was diagnosed with lung cancer in February 2020. She was positive with the options and treatments she received from the medical professionals but always prayed for God's will to be done. In September, Cathy moved in with her daughter in Scarborough, Ontario. Being a registered nurse, Angela cared for her until the morning of November 2, 2020, when Cathy died peacefully.

Cathy is survived by her daughter (Angela), sons (John and Ricky), seven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, three sisters and two brothers. Cathy was dearly loved and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Deznah Ellis

Von Hollon Obituary

Donald Larry Von Hollen of Red Deer, Alberta, passed away at the Red Deer Hospice on June 26, 2020, at the age of 75 years.

Don is lovingly remembered by: his wife, June; children, David, Dan, Leanne (Damien), Amy (Jeff), and Laura (Jamie); seven grandchildren, Ashlee, Jessica, Michelle, Katelyn, Chloe, Jackson, and Kye; brothers, Arelin (Fay), Ernie (Della),



provided by Von Hollen Family

Harold (Brenda), Terry (Sue Ella) and sister Jean. He was predeceased by his parents, Edwin and Lillian, and brother,

Gerald (Dianne).

Don was born in Butte, Alberta, on July 10, 1944. He took his schooling at David Thompson High School in Condor where he was active in sports. In June of 1965, he moved to Thompson, Manitoba, and was hired by International Nickel (INCO) working three different shifts in the mine. With a strong work ethic from his farming background, he was readily liked and through hard work was able to buy his first new car in just ten months!

Don met June on her birthday, and they were married in 1968. Their first son was born in Thompson, and in 1969, they relocated to Regina, where their second son was born. Don worked for Mercury and Marine on outboard motors and snow machines. They made many friends in Regina, but Don always wanted to move back to Alberta, so in 1974, they relocated to Red Deer where he was employed by Turple Bros. Honda

for 22 years. Their three daughters were born in Red Deer.

Don really enjoyed mechanics and his speciality was troubleshooting. So if you told him something couldn't be fixed, the challenge was on! Don repaired and rode motorcycles for over 50 years and he especially enjoyed off-road and hill climbing. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Honda." His faith in God was exceptional and he exemplified the "give" way of life to his family and friends. He and his wife attended the Red Deer congregation.

Von Hollen Family

Correction

A mistake was made on page 10 of the Summer 2020 issue of the United News Canada. Rosalin Wegner was baptized on March 28 – not March 29 as reported. We apologize for the error.

UNC

"Golf" from page 16

We shouldn't compete against others, only against ourselves. Focus on other's success as well.

#10. Encourage one another:

Ephesians 4:16, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working

in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

We exhorted one another, as it helped us to make better shots through better shot choices and execution and helped each other to overcome obstacles preventing us from reaching the green and sinking the ball.

In summary, we can apply spir-

itual lessons to everything we do. For anyone, sports certainly can provide enjoyment, camaraderie, skill building and rewards. For spiritual matters, there is more to the story. Sports helps build our godly character. So, playing mini golf can have maximum benefits. How so? It can help us prepare for the ultimate prize, the Kingdom of God!

Dale Craniford

Lessons From Mini Golf

Who likes sports? Likely many of us. They provide fun, good exercise, skills development, achievement and camaraderie. There is also the chance to help others succeed.

Question: How can playing mini-golf relate to the Kingdom of God?

A recent Feast of Tabernacles activity among British Columbia brethren provided many valuable spiritual lessons.

One sunny fall afternoon in early October, six adults and one baby from the Vancouver and Victoria congregations played a few rounds of mini-golf. At the start, one might be excused for simply focusing on getting the ball in the hole. But, then someone injected God's Word into the conversation. So, that got the ball rolling. We kept on exhorting one another and thinking of God's Word as we played.

So, a game of mini-golf took on spiritual significance. What do I mean? If you have ever played golf, what follows may strike an even stronger chord!

#1. Different paths but the same goals

Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Some of us got a hole in one, while others had to hit the ball several times to achieve the same goal. We kept on trying!

#2. Stay focused: Keep focused on God's Kingdom

Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We kept our eyes on the end goal. To put the ball into the hole is analogous to focusing on the ultimate prize – the Kingdom of God.

3. Do not envy others or bury your talent because of disappointment

1 Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Those more experienced golfers shared techniques with others who were discouraged. We shouldn't brag about our ability but use our strength to be our sister's or brother's keeper.

5. Challenges make us stronger

Romans 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

Each hole/level got harder, but we all discovered that we became more confident in our ability. We were building spiritual muscles for every new challenge.

6. Don't compare ourselves among ourselves

2 Corinthians 10:12, "For we dare not make ourselves of

the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

As all of us have different golfing abilities, as we are also at different points on our spiritual growth towards God's Kingdom.

7. We share one another triumphs and failures

1 Corinthians 12:26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

Some players got a hole in one, while others took many strokes to finish the same hole. On the next hole/level, the opposite sometimes happened! We just kept cheering each other on!

8. Learn to be humble

1 Corinthians 10:12. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

One player who got a hole-in-one had to take ten shots to complete a previous hole! So, it is good to remember our weaknesses and avoid overconfidence.

#9. Overcome selfishness

Philippians 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."