# The Olive Press

### April 2018

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"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God." 1 Peter 1: 18-21

Jesus was chosen *before* the creation of the world. "The ropes used to tie His hands and the soldiers used to lead Him to the cross were unnecessary. They were incidental. Had they not been there, had there been no trial, no Pilate, and no crowd, the very same crucifixion would have occurred. Had Jesus been forced to nail Himself to the cross, He would have done it. For it was not the soldiers who killed Him, nor the screams of the mob: It was His devotion to us." (Max Lucado)

As we celebrate Easter Sunday, may we observe today as not just another day at church, or a time for chocolates and Easter egg hunts, but as an opportunity to receive and move forward in the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

Happy Easter from your Olive Press team.

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#### The Lord's Supper:

We celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month during the 9:15AM and 11:00AM services.

#### Vision:

To be a God-Centred, Christ-Like, Spirt-Filled community church, actively serving and nuturing one another and our neighbours.

We seek to **Invite** people to enjoy the riches of Christ's grace, **Grow** in Christ together, and **Serve** with our passions and talents in Christ's Name.

Faith Fish Collection: The next Faith Fish collection will be May 20th.

Olive Press Submisison: Email to: olivepress@sasspc.bc.ca

## "Designated Survivor"

Pastor Martin Baxter

*Designated Survivor* is an American political drama television series that premiered on September 21, 2016. On the night of the *'State of the Union'* speech, an explosion claimed the lives of the president and everyone in the line of succession except for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Thomas Kirkman, who had been named the 'Designated Survivor'.

In the United States, a designated survivor (or designated successor) is an individual in the presidential line of succession, usually a member of the United States Cabinet, who is placed at a physically distant, secure, and undisclosed location when the president, vice president, and other officials in the line of succession are gathered at a single location.

Following the bombing of the Capitol Building, Kirkman is immediately sworn in as president, and episode after episode he comes face to face with issues and problems that, no surprise, he successfully defeats. The show is now in its second season and I love it.

What on earth has Designated Survivor got to do with an Easter edition of The Olive Press?

I had no idea there was a *Presidential Succession Act*. I thought the storyline was made up. It's not. There really is a designated survivor during events like the *State of the Union*. And there's me thinking the only real designated survivor story was the story of Noah.

In Genesis 5, we get three of the saddest verses in the Bible.

SIGNAT D PVIVO

The Lord saw that the wickedness of (humanity) was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made (humanity) on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, "I will blot out (humanity) whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." (Genesis 6:5-7)

What an awful picture of just how corrupt and wicked humanity had become that God expresses the despair of His own heart in these verses. He grieves at sin and fallenness.

But there is a glimmer of hope; a designated survivor. In the very next verse we read, "but Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord." And so God reveals Himself to Noah and tells Noah to build an Ark. God is going to destroy the violence and corruption filling the earth by sending a flood to cover the earth, but amidst the horror of that story we get a symbol of hope: the Ark.

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you." (Genesis 6:18)

We know the story. The flood came, it lasted for a long, long time, and then it dissipated and the Ark survived. Then God said,

"Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." (Genesis 8:16-17)

Hope and life had returned to the earth. Correction, a new beginning had dawned on the earth and the rainbow was created to symbolize this new beginning, that everything that is good about creation now reigned supreme.

Not so fast. Just like in *Designated Survivor*, we might think that with a new beginning things would be somewhat different than before. But they were not. Sin somehow survived, if I can say it that way, and it thrived. Having been sworn in as president, Kirkman isn't faced with how to build and lead a new government, but with a civil rights problem, terrorism both at home and abroad, and internal betrayal in the White House. Despite the fact that a new beginning had dawned it was basically same old, same old. Could anything change the world once and for all?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

Is there a more beloved verse in all of scripture than John 3:16? But what about verse 17? Is there a better verse that proclaims the Hope of the Gospel? Jesus came once and for all to save the Creation. He's the **Designated Redeemer** of everything and everyone. And the enormity of what is behind that verse and the salvation of everything is that Jesus does not save us by being a Survivor, but by emptying Himself and pouring Himself out. He gave His life to save us.

When we look at a cross what do we see? Do we see a symbol of brutality and violence and death? Well, we should. Yes, of course, we should. Dying on a cross was one of the most horrendous methods to be killed. It was torture.

However, look a second time at the cross and in the core of its ugliness is incredible beauty beyond description. God loved us so much He was nailed on the cross for you and me. It is the most incredible symbol of the love of God given to us.

I mentioned recently in a children's address that the 'heart' is a symbol of life and love that we use particularly on Valentine's Day. God poured out His heart on a cross.

The cross is not merely a symbol of my sin and my need for forgiveness and grace. The cross is the most beautiful symbol of the Love of God expressed in and through His begotten Son who gave His life to save us.

I love watching Designated Survivor.

But most of all I love The Designated Redeemer.

artin



## A Few Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer

Author Unknown

I cannot pray **Our**, if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray *Father*, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray *who art in heaven*, if all of my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray *hallowed be thy name*, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.

I cannot pray *thy kingdom come*, if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray thy will be done, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray **on earth as it is in Heaven**, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray *give us this day our daily bread*, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray *forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*, if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray *lead us not into temptation*, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray *deliver us from evil*, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray *thine is the kingdom*, if I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray *thine is the power and the glory*, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray *forever and ever*, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray Amen, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."





For the past few days, I have been attending a medical conference and I have noticed a recurrent theme in a variety of the lectures; that of giving patients an opportunity to say what they would like to happen long before it may happen. Something called "Advance Care Planning." Lets consider what, when, and how to have this conversation.

#### What is it?

Currently, whilst 95% of Canadians feel "End Of Life" communication is important, only 30% have had discussions about medical preferences in case of serious illnesses; only 15% have recorded an Advance Care Plan; and only 9% have had End Of Life discussions with their physician.

In essence, "Advance Care Planning is a process of reflection and communication in which a capable person makes and expresses their wishes with regard to future health and/or personal care preferences and identifies people entrusted to ensure those wishes are followed should they become incapable of giving consent." (Facilitating Effective End of Life Communication - Helping People Decide by Dr. Chris Frank and Dr. John Puxty CGS Journal, Volume 6, 2016)

#### So when should this discussion take place?

One of the lecturers gave this example of our capacity for good health and the difficulty with waiting too long. Our health can be compared to an opaque bucket half filled with water. As we go through life, things happen to us that cause 'rocks' to be placed in the bucket and so the water level starts to rise. This might be a bout of pneumonia as a young adult, hypertension, asthma, or acute surgery for appendicitis. Individually, each episode doesn't seem to be too bad and you recover back to 'full fitness,' but the water in the bucket rises with each addition. Finally, unbeknownst to you, the water is sitting right at the lip of the bucket and some small medical issue happens, say a mild infection. The rock that is added is only a pebble, but it's enough to get the water flowing out of the bucket and you are suddenly no longer bouncing back to your 'full health' level. You lose your independence or your ability to function at 100% capacity. The point of this analogy is that none of us know where our water level is sitting. It is better to have the discussion now, when you are still functional and well, than to wait and find you are no longer able to be involved.

Expressing your wishes for future health care decisions is not just about your final illness, but also covers what care you would like at any stage should you be unable to express yourself. It also covers whom you want to make decisions on your behalf. It is a topic that needs to be revised at different stages; for example, after a diagnosis, if you require a higher level of care, or need to change your substitute decision maker.

#### How do we have the conversation?

I would like to encourage you all to look at a very useful document called *My Voice* that can be found at: <u>https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2013/MyVoice-AdvanceCarePlanningGuide.pdf.</u>

This document is also available from some recreation centres or senior centres in booklet form.



*My Voice* will take you through topics to consider, from developing your Advance Care Plan; to considering your beliefs, values, and wishes; and considering life support and life-prolonging medical interventions. It also includes the paperwork for Advance Care Planning options, temporary substitute decision maker (TSDM), and representation agreements.

I suggest you all have a think about this. Your thinking may be very short. "I'm young (under 65), fit, and want everything done to keep me alive." Or it may be very complex. For example, "Knowing that I am living with (a significant illness - cancer, COPD, diabetes), I need to spend some time on this."

If your thinking is more complex, read through the *My Voice* information package, talk through these issues with family, nominate a substitute decision maker, express yourself to that person as clearly as you can, or give authority for that person to make those choices for you. Then complete the documentation and make sure people know about it, especially your family, substitute decision maker, and family physician.

Lions Gate Hospital has been sending family physicians a notice when someone is admitted. They are asked to pass on any information they know about the patient's wishes. If your family physician doesn't know your wishes, he or she can't advocate for you.

This is not about being overly morbid; instead, this is enabling your family to focus on spending time with you when, or if, you become unwell, rather than having to worry and carry a burden of making tough choices at a tough time. Whilst we, as Christians, are assured of a heavenly future, discussing end of life care is still emotive, challenging, and sensitive; we often prefer to adopt an ostrich position on the topic! However, I would encourage us all to be involved, whether we are discussing what we want because we are in our senior years, or because we are family members wanting to know that we are making choices in the best interest of others.

It is never too early to talk about our choices; make sure you have a voice!

Dr N. Walton-Knight



# Yugo Ministries Summer Internship



Hi, I'm Kayleigh, one of the youth at church. I'm a first year student at the University of Victoria and very excited to share with you an amazing opportunity the Lord has given me.

For the past few years, I have been part of our church's mission team to Ensenada, Mexico, building houses for families in need. You may have heard of these trips; they have been life changing for me, and this year I felt God calling me to give more of myself. This summer, I will be serving as an intern with YUGO Ministries sharing the Gospel with the Mexican people.

Along with 11 other adults from the United States and Canada, I will be living in the community, sharing God's love, and serving on the construction ministry to build houses alongside short-term mission teams from across North America. As well, I will be participating in many outreach programs and exploring the different ministries of which YUGO is a part. This is an opportunity to spread the love and hope of Jesus to people who need it so badly and who hold a special place in my heart. Many of these families are surviving on less than \$7.00 a day and desperately need the reassurance God gives us that He will care for His children.



I have seen God's wonderful work in action at YUGO and I am ecstatic to be part of this mission. God does fantastic things through His love for us; experiencing that love in the YUGO community is life altering.

I do need your help to make this trip financially possible. Each intern must raise funds to meet their expenses for the summer. Would you please prayerfully consider supporting me in this mission? To do so, direct your donation towards me by putting my name on the offering envelope.

Thank you for supporting me as I serve God and His people this summer. I am expecting great things on this adventure and I appreciate your help more than words can say.





### Quotations Lesslie Newbigin Dr. Don Faris

British theologian Lesslie Newbigin went to India as a Church of Scotland missionary and became one of the Church of South India's first bishops. After 40 years, he returned to Britain to help the church proclaim the Gospel to a post-Christian western culture, which he viewed not as a secular society without gods, but as a pagan society with false gods.

- It is not only the Christian who is called to walk by faith. I believe that every human being has a responsibility to seek to grasp the truth about the reality which meets us and encompasses us... for the Christian, this search is sustained by the promise that, while we now only know in part, a day will come when we shall know as we are known.
- The problem of making sense of the Gospel is that it calls for a change of mind, which is as radical as is the action of God in becoming man and dying on a cross.
- The simple truth is that the resurrection cannot be accommodated to any way of understanding the world, except one of which it is the starting point.
- In the tradition of the Church, the only real analogy for the resurrection of Jesus has been the creation itself. We cannot use any of the tools of science to go behind the creation and ask "What was there before there was anything?" We can only take the existing world as a starting point. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the beginning of a new creation, the work of that same power by which creation itself exists.
- A learned Hindu friend complained to me that we Christians have misinterpreted the Bible. He said, "As I read the Bible I find in it a quite unique interpretation of universal history and, therefore, a unique understanding of the human person as a responsible actor in history. You have talked of the Bible as if it were simply another book of religion. We have plenty of these already in India and we do not need another."
- The Bible sets before us a vision of cosmic history from the creation of the world to its consummation... of one nation chosen to be the bearer of the meaning of history for the sake of all, and of one man called to be the bearer of that meaning for that nation. The Bible is universal history.
- The claim of the Christian community is that in Jesus the absolute truth has been made present amid the relativities of human cultures, and the form this truth took was not dominance and imperial power, but that of one whose power was manifest in weakness and suffering... the Church does not claim to possess absolute truth: it claims to know where to point.



## **Camp Douglas Ladies Retreat**

Karenne Hartley



The annual Presbyterian Ladies Retreat is held in the beautiful setting of Camp Douglas on the Sunshine Coast each June. It is a 4-day getaway spent learning, praying, and having fun with a great group of women from many churches.

This year's retreat runs from **Monday, June 11 to Thursday, June 14**. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls will be speaking about God's creation, earth.

Last year I joined Bernice Goddard and Bo Chuhon as first-time attendees. We gathered with other women aged 55+ to listen to Reverend Paddy Eastwood speak on the book of Joshua before breaking out into small groups to discuss the passages and explore prepared questions. We also had the pleasure of hearing two speakers share about their work in Malawi and Taiwan.

We worshiped through music, prayer, and a silent walking meditation in the woods followed by communion, which enriched us all. We reflected on God's ways with His people, in Joshua's time and ours, and how we can follow Him with the needed courage and help He provides. There was also a lot of time for tea and chatting, reading, gardening or napping, and we were kept well fed with tasty meals. One evening meal is always treated as a "banquet" complete with skits and costumes around a theme. Last year this was, of course, the 150th Birthday of Canada. As Bo the Bear, Bernice the Moose, and Karenne the Beaver, we did our part to contribute to the fun and festivities, including costuming and a sung ditty.

This short retreat provides a wonderful opportunity to take a break from routine and spend time with God and women of faith. I came away encouraged to be more courageous in trusting God, and felt a stronger sense of connection to the blessings and concerns that are shared by women in the wider fellowship of the Presbyterian church. Any woman or group of women will be made to feel very welcome so definitely consider attending this year.

For more information on the retreat this coming June, contact Eileen Sparrow at 604-522-7581 or eileensparrow@telus.net.



Camp Douglas is a Christian summer camp serving families and children in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Sunshine Coast areas. You can look forward to an action-packed week of Christian camping including beach, ocean, and forest activities and classic campfire.

## A Fox of a Tale

Murray Cockle

When a man by the name of John Rudge, who lived in the English county of Staffordshire, passed away on April 17, 1725, he made an unusual bequest in his will. He bequeathed 20 shillings (£1) a year to his church to employ a "grave person... to go about the church during the sermon and keep the people awake." In order for the chosen person to perform this task, the church provided them with a specially equipped stick, which had a fox's brush (tail fur) on one end and a knob on the other. Female sleepers would have their faces tickled with the fox's brush, and male sleepers would get a solid bop on the head with the knob.

The church no longer employs a person to do this, but they still honor the bequest by taking £1 from church funds, making a special note in the church accounts, and returning the money to church funds.

PS: This article is not intended as any kind of hint to anyone.



## At the Master's Table

#### At the Master's Table

The Many...

Are called but feign "too busy" Are invited but priorities exclude Are called but are self-distracted Are invited but are not responding... ...Absent but still believing entitled

#### The Master...

Gives Grace's open invitation Sets the full table for His guests Plans for their attendance Is grieved by sent regrets ...Present and still pursuing

#### The Mystery...

The undeserving as honoured guests Drawn, if not compelled by Love's gravity Seated with Princes, yet not out of place Humbled yet elevated – a miracle of grace... ...Absent the pride, present the praise

The Mercied...

Awed by the invitation's privilege Overwhelmed by the majesty present Anxious not to overstep place Content with the glimpse from the shadows Undone by the invitation of Grace... "Come sit at my side at my table!"

Present, Privileged, Overwhelmed, And Completely Undone... ...By Love's invitation to sit at the table

D. MacKinnon



### Good News! Exciting news! Awesome News!

Having interviewed both potential candidates, the Session agreed unanimously to recommend **Daniel Martinez** and **Nathaniel Hartley** to the Presbytery of Westminster as **candidates** to become **Ministers of Word & Sacraments**. The next steps in this process for both of them will entail a committee of Presbytery recommending them as candidates and, subsequently, they will begin further studies; Daniel is applying to do an MDiv at Vancouver School of Theology and Nate is applying to do a joint MDiv between Regent College and VST.

In addition, Nathaniel has been named as the Young Adults Representative for our Presbytery to attend the General Assembly in June 2018.

The Session would also like to affirm their support of Daniel's employment as co-director of Camp Douglas for the upcoming summer season. We hope that we will be able to connect with some neighbouring families in order to send some local kids to camp.

## Children of Kenya

Rebecca Rausch



On Saturday March 24, the church hosted a Fundraising Flea Market in support of New Hope Education Centre in Kenya. I was overwhelmed with the number of donations received. The doors opened at 9:00AM and people were lining up outside at 8:30AM! In all, we raised \$4,600.00. I cannot thank you enough on behalf of the children for your continued support that enables them to look toward a brighter future. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at rebecca-rausch@shaw.ca.

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Florence Alma Younger, born August 28, 1922, died January 7, 2018. A service of worship in celebration of her life was held on January 27, 2018, to commit her into our Lord's care.



Margaret Elizabeth Stark, born on August 6, 1925, died March 2, 2018. A service in celebration of her life was held on March 17, 2018 to commit her into our Lord's care.



Peter Medcalf, born on February 26, 1926, died on March 9, 2018. A service will be held on April 14, 2018, at 2:00PM to commit him into our Lord's care.



Joy Shakespeare died on March 21, 2018. Joy was a long time member who served on the Women's Guild for many years.

# Baptism



Loren Elena, daughter of Emile and Madelise van Vuuren was baptised on Januray 14, 2018.

# Children's Pages

## Rainbow Jello Cups

Colette Doan

This is a fun treat to have for dessert or as a snack!

#### Ingredients:

5 (3 oz) packages of Jello (rainbow colours)5 cups boiling water3 cups light sour cream or yogurtWhipped cream for serving (optional)

#### Instructions:

- 1. For each layer, add 1 cup of boiling water to each package of Jello, one at a time. Stir and dissolve Jello.
- 2. Set half of it aside. Using a whisk, stir ½ cup of sour cream or yogurt into the other half of the Jello.
- 3. Pour the creamy Jello layer into clear plastic cups (I used 7 cups with 5 colours of Jello). To the other half of the Jello, add 3 tablespoons of water and set aside.
- 4. When the first layer is set, pour the second layer on it. Repeat the process for the remaining packages of Jello.



# Children's Colouring Pages



# Children's Colouring Pages



### Easter Word Search Puzzle

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BASKET BONNETS BUNNY CANDY CHILDREN CHOCOLATE CHURCH COLORING CROSS DECORATIONS DUCKS EGGS FUN GOOD HAPPY

JESUS PICTURES PINK RABBIT RELIGIOUS RISEN SPRING SUNDAY YELLOW





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