



OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE ADVENTURE

The River Church

Ministry Reports November 2017

Pastor Darcy Reimer

Areas and Responsibilities that fall under the role of Pastor that I won't be giving a Report on.

- Pastoral Counseling / people who consider themselves part of the church and those who don't.
- Pastoral Visitation of members and adherents of The River Church
- Weddings and Funerals of people River and Non-River folks
- Teaching Deep-Stream events / co-teaching with Kenda
- Leading team of Elders (working w/ Chair Stu Bent in setting Agenda & Chairing meetings)
- Administrative duties / office work / paying bills / updating website / e-mailing and preparing and printing weekly brochures
- Sermon Prep and Study
- Supporting the Prayer Ministry (21 Days of Prayer).

Outreach Community Involvement Darcy is no longer part of.

- Ripp'in Riders Youth Bike Camp
- Ore Crusher Bike Race

Community Christmas Care

- CCC has been running for 36 years running.
- I have been involved in a major way for going on 12 years as Chair or Co-Chair. This year I am the Director / Chair of CCC.
- This ministry has so much value to the church community here in Squamish because it's one of those things we do together! Where we are united arm in arm.
- This ministry is ministerial led and we will do all we can to keep it running that way. Although only one other pastor attends the meetings, most churches are involved in some way shape or form in CCC. In the meetings we have 5 churches represented.
- We believe through scripture we see God's heart is for the poor; and when we serve the poor, we align ourselves with God's heart.
- We as a Ministerial have decided to include a copy of the gospel of John in each hamper (this last year Gideons Canada covered the costs of the Gospel Magazines).
- This last year we put together 400 Hampers for the less fortunate in the community.
- This is a ministry I feel I can't delegate away or pass on to others as CCC desires to have a Pastor remain in the role of Director.

Ti-see-see-Yi / Totem Hall Christmas

- Last year was our 10th annual year we have participated in this ministry.
- We continue to see many River Folk participate in some capacity in this vital ministry.
- This is where we get to serve alongside the First Nations in Squamish & Helping Hands, and Salvation Army in caring for the poor and homeless and less fortunate.
- Together we provide a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings.
- A chance for the kids to sit on Santa's knee and the parent to have a photo op.
- It is our prayer that we remain available to the Holy Spirit, and the deeper work He may want to accomplish in and through the River's presence with this ministry (again, as a reminder, ministry is all about relationship, not a program).
- I would like to remain involved in Ti-see-see-Yi / Totem Hall Christmas, but would like to hand off much of the responsibility to others in the River. I want to hand the baton off to one of you.

Faith on Tap

- Every 2nd & 4th Thursday night (8-10 pm) Darcy gathered with 5-7 men from the River Church Family to build relationship centered around the study of Richard Rohr's book Wild Man to Wise Man.
- Faith on Tap is designed to create a safe place for men to go deeper in their relationships with other men, and their relationship with Jesus. One major component of Faith on Tap is our appreciation for good quality Micro-Brew.
- The book study of Wild Man to Wise Man has provided an opportunity for men to explore more deeply the topic of godly masculinity, what it means to be a man of God. Even though we don't believe or adhere to everything Rohr teaches, we value his ability to say things in a new and fresh way, hopefully allowing the Holy Spirit to find new fresh avenues into our hearts.
- With a few weeks left in the book, we as Faith on Tap men will either choose the book Sacred Enneagram by Chris Heuertz or Speaking of Jesus by Carl Medearis.
- Of course the door is always welcome for more men to join us.

Pastor Kenda Reimer

River Kids

This year has brought some changes to River Kids. For Feb, Mar and April, we were able to have Adam Wray teach the kids each week. By the end of June we were able to finish off the "What's in the Bible" series which means over the last 2 years we have made our way through the whole Bible!

We always take a break over the summer and this fall we are trying something new. Anna-Marie Rutishauser is leading the kids on the first 2 Sundays of the month. The 3rd Sunday is a family CWG where the whole CWG is geared for all ages (the kids don't leave the service) and the 4th Sunday Claudia is leading the kids focusing on prayer. I have switched from being the main teacher to focusing more on overseeing this ministry and training/empowering others to do the teaching. Because this is new, we anticipate tweaking some things as we go but overall are excited to see what God has for our kids this next year.

Deep Streams/Teams

Deep Streams covers all of the teaching/connecting times outside of a CWG. Currently we have the following teams: women, men, prayer, missions and mental health. In August we had all the team leaders together to discuss what we were focusing on and to try to bring a cohesiveness to what is happening outside of CWG's. These other leaders will have a report on their own area. This year we are running a Deep Stream that is more of a study. We are working through "The Story – The Bible as one continuous story of God and His people." We meet each Tuesday evening for 31 weeks.

Spiritual Direction

I am currently being trained to be a spiritual director. This is very life giving for me and requires lots of reading as well as meeting with a supervisor, directing 2 people and meeting with my own director once a month. I also am required to attend training in Seattle a total of 3 times in 9 months – the final one is in June.

Also, this year we will continue to do the women's group spiritual direction nights once a month on a Sunday evening at Dorothy and John Wikkerink's house. We ran these over this last year and all who attended expressed interest in continuing. We plan to start again in November.

Mental Health Team

We are currently putting together a team of people focusing on mental health in the church. Some have attended a seminar regarding a type of support group. We are in discussion with Squamish Community Church around partnering with them in this. There is also a seminar the last week of October that I will be attending on mental health and trauma. This is not just for professionals but also for people interested in walking alongside people struggling with these issues. We are not sure yet what this will look like in our setting or who will be involved but we are seeking God and excited about the possibility of partnering with another church.

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT October, 2017 - Claudia Weiland

Listening Prayer for Inner Healing

What I found especially exciting this past year is that we had six women explore this opportunity and receive listening prayer (5 from the River Church, one lady from a different church).

Kenda has been key in referring people and so far mostly her and I have worked together in coming alongside people seeking listening prayer ministry. Christine R. has expressed interest in becoming involved in this capacity as well and I'm looking forward to be working together with her in the future.

My hope (and prayer) is that more people will become curious and interested in this, both on the receiving end as well as in a capacity to minister to others.

One question that arises is whether we need to look at how to better reach men?

Prayer Broadcast: prayer@intheriver.ca

Thanks to Steve Klassen being the driving force behind this, in March we created the opportunity for a prayer broadcast via email (prayer@intheriver.ca). The idea was for anyone with a prayer need to be able to reach out to a team of dedicated prayer people, who had previously signed a confidentiality agreement. We currently have 6 men and women (Christina R., Maria S., Peter & Pam L., Steve K., Claudia W.) on our River Community Prayer Team and would be happy to grow.

Corporate Prayer Times

Our theme in January was “Sitting at the Feet of Jesus”, where everyone was encouraged to spend an extra 10 minutes each day to just be and focus on Jesus - to simply sit with Jesus and spend some quality time in the quietness of prayer. Half-way through the month, we held a corporate prayer evening, hosted by Karen & Richard and their house church where we created some space for individual listening and praying together. On Feb 1st, everyone was invited to come together and share our experiences over coffee and dessert.

In September, we dedicated 3 weeks to a deeper focus on prayer, September 10-30. During those 21 days of prayer, the sauna in the Weilands' back yard was open at 6:00am and at noon for those who wanted to pray in community. Coming together in prayer like that was simple and a lot of fun. It was especially encouraging to see a number of people come together to pray and to notice some common themes arise.

Prayer & Anointing with Oil

James 5:14-16 encourages us as believers, “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

I had the privilege of taking part in one such prayer time and really hope (and pray) that more people find the courage to put the elders to work in this way. God's promise connected to this is huge.

World Day of Prayer by Grace Neudorf

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the 1st Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer, bringing the world's attention to justice issues that women and children face in Canada and around the world. Through World Day of Prayer, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world, are enriched by the faith experience of

Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by prayer with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world. Each year there is a focus country and this year's country is the Philippines and the theme this year is: "Am I Being Unfair to You?"

A church in our community volunteers to coordinate the World Day of Prayer and this year I volunteered, as a representative of The River Church, to be the coordinator. Together with my brothers and sisters from The River Church, Squamish United Church, St. John the Divine Anglican Church, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and others in our community, we welcomed one another and held hands in worship, prayer and story-telling together with our sisters in The Philippines who embraced us with their words and shared with us their concerns. Together we raised \$560 for the World Inter-Church Council of Canada which connects our community to projects helping women touched by injustice, in Canada and abroad. I look forward to attending the World Day of Prayer in 2018 which will be coordinated by St. John the Divine Anglican Church, hosted by Suriname.

Missions Committee by Andrew Kennedy

Gaileen Warden visited the River Church family on September 17, 2017. Gaileen is an Alliance International Worker (IW) in the Caribbean Sun region, currently in Canada on furlough. The River Church has a seamless link agreement in place with Gaileen and we are happy to continue to support her work through prayer and other encouragement. She is developing a ministry among the women on the island, focusing primarily on women in leadership within the local C&MA (Christian and Missionary Alliance) churches. During the CWG, Gaileen shared an update on how God is at work in her ministry and the country where she serves. She also shared her prayer requests for the coming season of her ministry as she looks to fully equip local women's leaders to carry on her work independently. Gaileen also attended the Tantalus Simple Church that evening for an opportunity for those in attendance to share in a more personal look at her work and her prayer requests.

A small mission committee has been formed from members of the River Church. This committee will become more active in the coming year with the intention to raise the profile of mission work within the C&MA. These activities will include delivering a message at a CWG focused on mission work in the C&MA, the creation of a missions board that can be used to post regular updates, periodically updating the church about missions activities and investigating some short term overseas ministries that may be of interest to members of the River. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Andrew Kennedy.

**Women's Retreats
By Heather Kennedy**

Sixteen amazing women from The River attended a weekend retreat from March 10-12, 2017, at Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast. The purpose of the weekend was to provide space for connection and relationship growth with one another and with God; to enjoy a time of refreshment; and to encourage one another. Pam Lang and Heather Kennedy organized the retreat, with helpful guidance from Kenda Reimer, and the ladies who attended made it a wonderful weekend! We were fortunate to spend time at both Pam's family cottage and Rosewoods retreat centre.

Activities that we enjoyed together during the weekend included sharing time over preparing and eating meals; hiking; paddling; mountain biking; and yoga. We also shared in connection and worship times on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We left with stronger bonds with one another and happy souls :)

A retreat day was also held during the summer, on July 8th, at AnnaMarie Rutishauser's home. Throughout the day, 10-12 women spent time sharing life together while enjoying AnnaMarie and Dorothy Wikkerink's hospitality!

We hope to share another weekend together this year, and continue to build on the relationships that exist and are developing between the Women of The River.

Tantalus House Church by Jim Neudorf

Over the years of being involved in house church I have often been asked what is house church and I have never a short and simple answer. In a Blog I read there was the phrase "love, laughter, sharing, and caring." While the blog was not about house church it sounded like this phrase was the way to answer the question. In the house church we experience:

*Times to celebrate retirements and times to ponder what can be,
times of the stress from studies and times to celebrate graduation,
times of grave illness and times of literal restoration to life
times of vocational stress and times of finding satisfaction in our work, and
times to grieve and remember lives lived.*

In the intimate context of a small gathering of disciples of Jesus we love, laugh, share our lives and care for each other in the ever shifting, often difficult, dynamic called life. We gather together in this about every two weeks. Each evening starts with a meal followed by a time of discussion which might be on a sermon, something someone has read or, simply coming alongside someone in a struggle.

We want to be always inviting and you are invited to join together with us in love, laughter, sharing and caring.

River Church Men's Group
(Jim Neudorf and Richard Hoshino)

In August 2015, Richard Hoshino and Jim Neudorf were both feeling a restlessness for a men's group. With further thought and conversation a group launched in November 2015 with the desire to:

to encourage and challenge each other to live intentionally rather than by default. Our desire is to be the man who God intended us to be and be that man in every sphere of our lives: relational, vocational, physical, intellectual, and spiritual.

With this shared longing a group has formed seeking deeper growth and more authentic spiritual friendships. The group has been a tremendous success, with us meeting twice each month since our formation, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in each others' homes.

In 2015-2016, we did in-depth studies of scripture (John, Ruth) and books on Christian discipleship, explored strengths and core values, took the Enneagram test to explore the strengths and shadow sides of our God-given personality, shared our life stories, and had a lot of time to support each other through prayer and listening.

In 2016-17, we worked through Tim Muldoon's book "The Ignatian Workout" as a vehicle for soul growth, and had a weekend men's retreat in Anvil Island at the end of April.

In 2017-18, we have just begun working through a process called "Immunity to Change", taught to Richard by Alex Wray, the father of Dani and Alex (two young adults who attend the River Church). The goal is to explore how God can use this work to help us grow as fathers, husbands, sons, employees, employers, friends, and members of this community.

All this is possible because the group has created an environment that is incredibly safe and confidential, where we can be totally authentic and mask-free, sharing how God is working in our lives through various triumphs and setbacks.

We meet on the second and fourth Monday evenings of the month, for discussion, fellowship, and prayer.

"The glory of God is a man fully alive." Irenaeus