



Gale Gatherings

THE MISSION OF GALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO BE A FAMILY OF EMBRACING AND DYNAMIC DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WHO GLORIFY GOD IN THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

December 2019

What's happening at Gale this season:

Sunday, Dec. 1
Communion Sunday
(10:30am)

Community Memorial
Service (7pm @ Gale)

Monday, Dec. 2
Secret Sister Evening
(6:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 8
Community Carol Sing
(7pm @ Woodside)

Friday, Dec. 13
Youth Christmas Parties
(Jr. youth 5:30/ Sr. youth
7:00)

Tuesday, Dec. 17
Christmas Luncheon
(11:15 & 12:30) – buy
your tickets in advance!

Saturday, Dec. 21
Family Movie Night
(@4:00pm)

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Service
(7:00pm)

Office Hours during the Christmas Holidays

Dec. 24 – open
Dec. 25-27 – closed
Dec. 31 – open
Jan. 1 – closed

BE A BABY

This season I am inspired to talk about a baby and a new birth.

It's obvious how much our Christmas traditions revolve around the birth of a baby. In the church, we emphasize this with the Advent season of preparation and waiting. Our Christmas traditions focus on the perspective of the parents and the community – the waiting and preparation are things that people do when they know something big is going to come and change their lives.

But what if we were to look at the Christmas story from a new angle? What if we anticipated this Christmas from the point of view of the baby? The parents know what's going on – mostly, and they know what's going to happen – mostly. We reflect that in setting apart our Advent season with special events, feasts and festivities. We know something big is in the works. The ba-

by hasn't got a clue.

The baby is snuggled nice and cozy in mum's womb. Everything is provided for it. There is security, protection, and nourishment and all the baby has to do is float away the days. But soon enough, the baby has to leave that comfort zone. The baby gets too big for the womb. Things have to change and, oh, what a cataclysmic change that is! It's painful – its earth changing – it's a whole new way of being.

I'd like to challenge Gale this season to

think of ourselves as the baby at Christmas. Not the family or community waiting for something to happen but the creation of God that will have its life changed forever. God moves and we get pushed out into the real world. We are transformed into something that God will use.

We are something new.

We are the baby.

Blessings to you

Rev. Scott Sinclair



Clerk's Corner *By Darlene Vandermey, Clerk of Session*

As a Session we did not meet over the summer months. We now meet on the third Tuesday of every month rather than the third Thursday.

We were pleased as a Session to welcome three new staff members to Gale. Richard McFadden as Director of Music, Janice Malloy as Church Administrative and Communications Assistant and Melanie Dow as Faith Program Facilitator.

A Session is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the members and adherents within each congregation. One way a Session member does this is through contact and visitations with those who are in their assigned districts. Quite often a visit will be done around the time that the Gale Gatherings is published but if there is ever a time when you wish to have a conversation or visit from your Elder, please do not hesitate to contact them.

The Christmas season is here, beginning with Advent as we begin our journey to the stable in Bethlehem to celebrate Jesus' birth. May you be blessed during this special time of year.

Blessings
Darlene Vandermey,
Clerk of Session



🎵 Note-ables *By Rick*

Music is alive and Gale is embracing it! Praise and adult choir, youth choir, youth handbell choir and adult tone chimes choir....all happening with excitement and FUN!

Don't miss the Community Choirs and Carols evening held this year at Woodside Bible Fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7:00 p.m. Gale will certainly be taking part in this wonderful Advent event.

All Gale's musicians will be participating in our Christmas Eve. Candlelight service. If ever you wish to be part of music at Gale, just speak to me! Blessings!

Richard McFadden,
Choir Director

COME JOIN US FOR DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Tuesday, December 17th

****2 seating times available: 11:15 and 12:30**

Cost—\$15.00

Carved turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, roll, gravy, hot vegetable, cranberry salad, desert, beverage



Treasurer's Report *By Stephen Hinbest, CPA, Treasurer*

As the Christmas season approaches and another year quickly passes us by (at least it felt that way for me) we can begin to evaluate our financial position for 2019 and consider the possibilities for 2020.

2019 has been consistent and relatively quiet financially when compared to the past two years. Our budgeted target for general givings was a 2% increase for 2019. Up until the end of September we had been on track. Octo-

ber saw a \$3,000 decrease in general givings over October 2018 which pushed our increase year-over-year down to 1%. I am confident that we will end the year achieving our targeted increase as the October deficit is relatively minor and could be made up in the last two months of the year.

On Sunday November 24th after church we will be holding a congregational meeting at which time we will present an estimated 2019 income statement and present a draft

of the 2020 budget. The purpose of this meeting is to allow advanced financial position discussions ahead of our annual general meeting in February. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.

Stephen Hinbest, CPA
Treasurer

Reminder

If you ordered plants they are ready for Pick up on Sunday December 1st unless you have arranged another time with Melanie Dow.



A Book You Should Read *Reviewed by Rev. Sinclair*

Plan Be

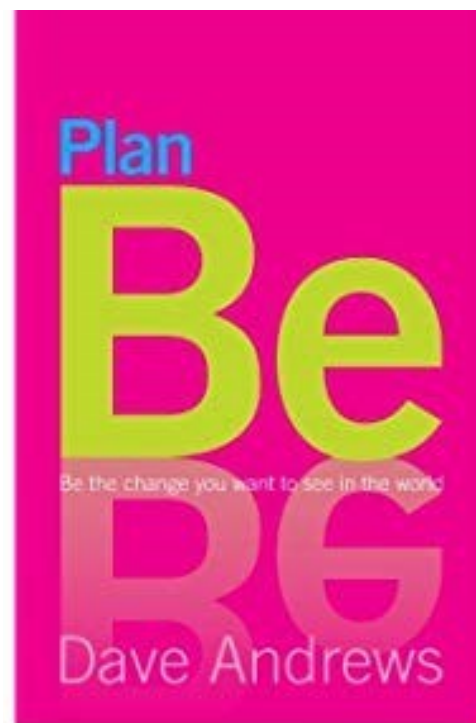
By Dave Andrews

Our sermon series through the fall of 2019 has been a look at the Beatitudes. These blessings are found as Jesus' introduction to his Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5. There are some alternate beatitudes showing up in Luke's gospel but we don't often worry about those ones because they are a shorter version.

My preaching has been based largely on this

book, *Plan B*. It makes a very easy read to get a good modern look at Jesus' ancient words. It challenges us. This book takes the poetic musical timbre of the passages and teases out the radical sub-text of what Jesus was all about. The beatitudes make good posters and memes. But when we really look at them, they make us change the world.

It's a good read. It is available to borrow from our church library.



Secret Sister Evening

Ladies mark your calendars for Monday December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. for our Secret Sister Evening at Gale. Cost is \$15. Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship hall bulletin board. This will be the evening when we reveal who we had this past year and pick a new sister for next year. REMEMBER you can come just for an evening out with the ladies and don't need to take on a Secret Sister. Also, if you are new and want to join in with a Secret Sister next year, please bring along a gift to exchange. A few men are needed to assist with the evening as well. Contact Melanie Dow for any questions.



Volunteer Opportunity

Come join CEC (Christian Education Committee) here at Gale. We are looking for a few more people to join this committee that supports many groups, activities, events. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We have a few eat and meet times through the year as well. Are you interested in knowing how you can support this group, come out to a meeting or speak to Jan Parsons.

PAGES (Presbyterians At Gale Enjoying Stories)

Date	Book	Leader	Host	Dessert
Mon. Nov. 26	The Mistress of Nothing By Kate Pullinger	Myrna Shantz	Myrna Shantz	Dawna Martin
Mon. Jan. 28	The Glass House By Louise Penny	Jan Parsons	Marg Donald	Joan Moyer
Mon. March 25	Sensible Shoes By Sharon Garlough Brown	Joan Moyer	?? or at Gale	??
Mon. June 3	Discussion and Book Selections for our 9 th year!	Jan Parsons	Gale Church	Pot Luck

The Mitten Tree

On Sunday December 1st our Christmas tree will be up and decorated in the foyer. You are invited until Sunday December 15th to place hats, mitts, small toys etc. underneath the tree. These items will be donated to Woolwich Community Centre to support the many projects they run at this time of year.



Deck the Halls of Gale

On Wednesday November 27th, 5:30 p.m. we will be putting out the Christmas decorations to prepare ourselves for Advent and Christmas.

You are invited to sign up (sheet in fellowship hall) and come and join in the fun for the evening. We will be decorating the church, having some food (don't need to eat supper before coming!) and celebrating Advent season together.

There will be some activities for the little ones if they are bored from decorating. We are asking that ALL kids bring an ornament for their own Christmas tree.

This event is open to all to attend. Questions speak to Melanie Dow.



Family Movie Time. On Saturday December 21st at 4 p.m. Tuck shop opens, movie starts at 4:15 p.m. We will come together to watch a Christmas theme movie in the Fellowship Hall.

Remember to bring along your blanket and pillows!

Youth Group Christmas Parties

Friday December 13th YOUTH GROUP Christmas Parties. Junior Youth Grades 6-8 are invited to come to the church at 5:30 p.m. (bring along a small gift to do a gift exchange) until 7:30 p.m. We will be having pizza at 7 p.m. as 1 large group. Senior group (grade 9 and up) arrive at 7 p.m. for pizza and end time is 9 p.m. (bring along a small gift to do a gift exchange). Sign up sheet on the bulletin board under the youth heading. Remember friends are always welcome.



Library News *By Sharon Hollinger*

One new book to the library is FIRE ROAD. This is a memoir of hope.

More than four decades ago, her excruciating pain was exposed in a photo that made headlines around the world.

It's a moment forever captured, an iconic image that has come to define the hor-

ror and violence of the Vietnam War: Nine-year-old Kim Phuc running in agony moments after bombs fell from the sky, bringing hellish fire that burned away her clothing and scared deep into her skin. FIRE ROAD is a story of both unrelenting horror and unexpected hope, a harrowing tale of life changed in an instant.

In this stunning first-hand account of struggling to find answers in a world that only seemed to bring anguish, Kim ultimately discovers strength in someone who had suffered himself, transforming her tragedy into an unshakable faith. Kim Phuc Phan Thi travels to hundreds of events every year around the world. She has re-



ceived numerous awards and recognitions for her commitment to global peace and reconciliation.

John and Carol Harding heard Kim speak while in Florida and suggested that we may want this book in our library.

Helping Hands—What is that all about? *By Marylu Pentelow*

Throughout the winter months a group called Helping Hands gather each Friday morning at Gale.

Helping Hands began as a time of fellowship with purpose. This group has evolved over the years, participating in various outreach missions but fellowship and support is also central to time together. The core of our work for many years has focused on supporting a mission to The Cariboo Presbyterian Church in north central British Columbia. Led by Rev. Shannon Bell-Wyminga and her husband Rev. Jonathan Wyminga, church members are spread over hundreds of kms with 'church' happening in unique ways.

- House churches for remote ranch families who gather together in homes for worship and a meal.
- Being 'with' and ministering to our First Nations brothers and sisters in Quesnel and Nazko through worship and programs for

children

- Ministering to fly-in communities

These are just some of the ways that the Wyminga's minister to their 'congregation'.

A part of Shannon and Jonathan's ministry is to provide at Christmas a bag of school supplies, toiletries, toys and knitted gifts to each child within their reach. For some children, this is the only gift they get at Christmas. The Gale Helping Hands group shares in this by sending hand knit sweaters, socks, slippers, hats, scarves and mitts. These knitted gifts number in the hundreds over the years. This year Shannon sent a special request asking if someone would be willing to knit a Nativity Scene that they could use in telling the Christmas story. Thanks to Clara Benjamins' daughter Wilma, this wish was granted and has been received with excitement and gratitude.

Another focus for Helping Hands is the creating of prayer and lap shawls. These are given to any who are going through a difficult time with

hopes they will feel the warmth, love and support surrounding them. Baby Afghans are also made which are gifted to each child at their baptism at Gale. Another project is in creating Twiddle Muffs which give a sense of calm to those who are dealing with Alzheimer's.

Our knitting, crocheting and creating continues throughout the year. We gather during the winter months which gives us a reason to be together. For others who knit and crochet but are not free to participate Fridays, your gifts are gratefully received. Also appreciated

to Helping Hands is donations of new yarn - chunky (for hats), knitted or worsted weight for prayer shawls and mitts. Finished items and new yarn will find their way to us if you drop them off at the church office.

Whether you are working on your own creative project, or making something for one of the Helping Hands missions, or just ready to enjoy a cup of coffee with friends, come join us ... we'd love to share a cup of coffee with you.

Helping Hands – beginning Friday January 10th 2020 – 9:30 – 11:30 at Gale Church.





Stage 1— Apple Picking

We kicked off the apple pie campaign this year on October 5th with 18 young and old pickers trolling through Doris Milliken's apple orchard. The weather was

great as we picked about 60 bushels of apples. A lot of the apples were small but that didn't stop us from sampling.



Stage 2—Shells October 22, 23, 24

This year we put on an extra day of shell and box making. As a result we produced over 1500 pie shells, sending them to freezers.

Over 60 volunteers made that happen. The peak night was Thursday when we had 26 volunteers.



Stage 3—Final Run November 7, 8, 9

The apples came out of storage at Maple Crisp Orchards and got us through the first 2 days. It became very clear that we needed more apples to keep us going into Saturday. We supplemented our Milliken apples with an additional 30 bushels. Some of our apples were small but the orchard bought those back for deer feed.

We had 37 volunteers on Thursday, 41 on Friday and 42 on Saturday. This was great. Saturday started off slowly but picked up later. We had about 10 volunteers which our sellers had invited in to see how it worked. Some were repeats from last year. We had a great mix of ages and at one point the dough table was run by pre-teens...and doing a great job. In the end, we produced over **1400** pies.



Stage—Beyond
Nov. 18
70 more

We are victims of our success. We needed more pies. We bought more apples and produced 70 more pies as part of our Tuesday luncheon setup on Monday November 18th.

Hilke was working about 9 tasks and was able to lay on a great hot pork lunch. Best lunch I ever had.

Thanks to all. I am constantly amazed at the esprit d'corp of this whole process. People talking and working together, seeing a problem and moving over to solve it. It seemed organic. Our visitors were amazed at young people participating and our hospitality. It is times like this when I feel God is with us.

Thanks to all
 Lee Coulman
 GAP 2019 coordinator



Gale Family News

Doug and Hilke Dann Honoured



This is the plaque Doug and Hilke received . A larger plaque like this is on the wall in the National Farm Toy Museum in Dyersville, Iowa USA. Stacy & Jackson travelled with them to Iowa to attend the event.



National Farm Toy Hall of Fame induction October 31, 2019 . Dyersville, IA, USA

Madelyn Helen Payne surprised everyone arriving 3 weeks early on Oct. 29th, 6 lbs 8 oz. Daughter of Laura and Wes Payne. Scott and Anne Sinclair are first time grandparents, and David is an uncle!