

## News and Updates - Fall 2019

Dear Maranatha Friends,

### THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS

In his book, What's So Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancey tells the story of an Irish priest who, on a walking tour of his parish, sees an old peasant kneeling by the side of the road, praying. Impressed, the priest says to the man, "You must be very close to God." The peasant looks up from his prayers, thinks a moment, and then smiles, "Yes, he is very fond of me." It's doubtful that most professing Christians think that God is actually very fond of them. But here's the remarkable thing about God, he actually is very fond of his creation, and particularly of his children who have accepted the gift of loving grace offered through his Son, Jesus.

When he visited the University of Chicago, the renowned theologian Karl Barth was asked by one of the scholars and students who crowded around him, "Dr. Barth, what is the most profound truth you have learned in your years of study?" No doubt they were expecting some profound theological and philosophical insight into the mysteries of God and the universe. Instead, without hesitation the greatest theologian of the 20th century replied by repeating the simple line from the song that countless children have learned over the years, "*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*"

We should all agree with Dr. Barth. Now if God is the most important person in our life, and of course he should be, and if the most important person in our life views us continually through the lens of his divine, unchanging love, then we should consciously live each day under the sunshine of God's love.

What a difference it would make in our lives if we consistently saw our primary identity in life as "the one Jesus loves," as, "the one he is very fond of?" When we are tempted to question God's sentiment towards us, we should just remind ourselves of the rogues' gallery in the Bible whom God blessed with his love: Jacob the schemer, David the adulterer, Peter the denier, Zacchaeus the tax-collecting thief, Paul the persecutor, Mary the prostitute, and the thief on the cross.

The Bible defines God with three simple words, "*God is love*" (1 John 4:8). After writing thousands of pages in his Church Dogmatics, Karl Barth arrived at this simple definition of God: "The One who loves." Yes, he is very fond of you and me.

*"Because your love is better than life, my lips will praise you."* Psalm 63:3

Blessings for the months ahead.

Gord

## Upcoming Maranatha Luncheons

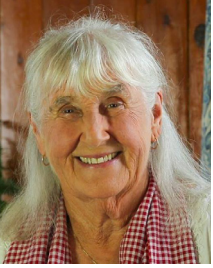
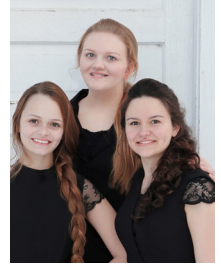


### **September 25: Lloyd Cenaiko**

The amazing story of a Saskatchewan-born developer whose humanitarian leadership has impacted thousands in Eastern Europe through H.A.R.T. ministries.

#### **Guest Artist: The Marten Trio**

Program is at 10:30 in the chapel followed by buffet lunch in atrium at 12:00. Luncheon tickets will be sold in the atrium prior to and following the 9 a.m. service on Sept. 8 & 15, or call 403.547.0099 to reserve. Cost is \$13. Tickets will also be available online starting Sept. 8 at [cchurch.ca](http://cchurch.ca). Please note that all tickets must be purchased prior to Sept 18.



### **October 16: Marie Ens**

The remarkable life story of a 85 year-old missionary impacting hundreds of orphan children and Aids victims through RESCUE in Cambodia.

#### **Guest Artist: Raylene Scarrott**

Program is at 10:30 in the chapel followed by buffet lunch in atrium at 12:00. Luncheon tickets will be sold in the atrium prior to and following the 9 a.m. service on Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, or call 403.547.0099 to reserve. Cost is \$13. Tickets will also be available online at [cchurch.ca](http://cchurch.ca). Please note that all tickets must be purchased prior to Oct 9.



### **November 20: Pat Nixon**

The inspiring story of a criminal teen who went on to found and lead Calgary's ministry to the homeless through the Mustard Seed.

#### **Guest Artist: Mary Ellen Goslin**

Program is at 10:30 in the chapel followed by buffet lunch in atrium at 12:00. Luncheon tickets will be sold in the atrium prior to and following the 9 a.m. service on Nov. 3 & 10, or call 403.547.0099 to reserve. Cost is \$13. Tickets will also be available online at [cchurch.ca](http://cchurch.ca). Please note that all tickets must be purchased prior to Nov 13.

### **December 18: Christmas Celebration & Hymn Sing**

Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus through Christmas hymns, inspirational poetry and an inspiring talk by Gordon Dirks.

Program will be in Worship Centre. Luncheon tickets will be sold in the atrium prior to and following the 9 a.m. service on Dec. 1 & 8, or call 403.547.0099 to reserve. Cost is \$15. Tickets will also be available online at [cchurch.ca](http://cchurch.ca). Please note that all tickets must be purchased prior to Dec 11.



**Volunteer Opportunities:** A number of opportunities exist for Maranatha Adults to get involved in our community and volunteer to serve others.

1. *Baking contributions for our New Canadian Friendship Centre.* Our New Canadian Friendship Centre provides a variety of programs for new-comers to Canada. They serve pastries and snacks to those registered in the programs. They are requesting fresh baked pastries that can be frozen.
2. *Baking contributions for Centre Street Church Compassion Ministries.* Our Compassion Ministries provides meals and desserts to the less-fortunate on a regular basis. They are requesting fresh baked pastries that can be frozen.
3. *Cutlery Wrappers.* This is a group of Maranatha Adults who meet Tuesday mornings to help the kitchen assemble cutlery which is then wrapped in napkins.
4. *Volunteers are required to assist with registration and ushering for our various Maranatha programs.*
5. *Volunteers are required to become friendship ambassadors for our various Maranatha programs.* We want everyone to be greeted in friendship and feel welcome.
6. *Men and women who are willing to use their gift of music - either vocal or instrumental at various Maranatha Adult functions.*

If interested, please contact Jodi Woelke, Maranatha Adults Administrative Assistant, by emailing [jodi.woelke@cchurch.ca](mailto:jodi.woelke@cchurch.ca). Phone: 403.520.2683

Other Volunteer Opportunities are listed in the Centre Street Church Volunteer website.

## Maranatha 10:30AM Sunday Class Speakers (Sept - Dec, 2019):

- SEPT. 8** Elsie Loewen, author of *Lydia, the Journey Home*; *Innings, a True Story of Rejection, Reunion, and Roots*; *From Refugee to Ratters*; *Deserts, Dams and Dirt*; *No More a Stranger*. Elsie writes compelling life stories and will share with our group the significance of recording these special memories.
- SEPT. 15** Missions Emphasis will introduce Jill Hilstad, who is a Speech Therapist with a focus on children with special needs and their families. She will be serving in the country of Peru beginning in January.
- SEPT. 22** Carole Tanney, "Ambassador to Ghana," who has made 20 missions trips to Ghana and has taken teams of teachers, nurses, a librarian, farmer, truck driver, carpenters, dentists and dental workers, a physiotherapist and those who just wanted to help. She will share about her life, her ministry, and what God is teaching her.
- SEPT. 22** ART WALK – following our morning class, we invite you to join us on a short walk to Fortune Fine Art. This wonderful gallery is just one block from our Central Campus and contains great master pieces for viewing and purchase. There will also be a draw for a framed reproduction picture which some of our class members have won on previous tours.
- SEPT. 29** Pastor Gordon Dirks will share about "Heaven, Our Final Destination." He will be reviewing and wrapping up the series with more insight on our final home. Does your heart yearn for Heaven?



- OCT. 6** Kristy Riegel and Flo Smalley from the Appleseed Library will bring us a presentation on "The Love of Reading." They will review what is available in this great resource for attendees at Centre Street Church, and might even read some favorite stories from the written word.
- OCT. 13** Thanksgiving Weekend. Class is cancelled.
- OCT. 20** Missions Emphasis with Lois Derksen. Lois will introduce to the class a representative from one of our missions partners.
- OCT. 27** Pastor Gordon Dirks, will begin a new series on "The Good and Beautiful God." You won't want to miss this series that will encourage and inspire as we learn about the amazing God we love and serve.



- NOV. 3** Irene Edwards, with "Care 4 You Quilters," will bring us a presentation of what their quilting group is all about. It is a significant ministry at Centre Street Church that brings comfort to many hurting people. Also, Mary Bielak, who is a member of this group will recite Scripture passages that are near and dear to her heart.
- NOV. 10** A special time of "Remembrance Day Memories" – some from Holland, some from our Canadian Forces who have served. Gregg Hatton-Fearnley, retired Navy, will be with us to share about his years serving in the Canadian Forces.
- NOV. 17** Missions emphasis with Lois Derksen. Lois will introduce to our class a representative from one of our missions partners.
- NOV. 24** Pastor Gordon Dirks, will continue the series, "The Good and Beautiful God." God is good! Come and learn more about our amazing God and his great love for us.



- DEC. 1** Christmas Presentation Weekend. Class is cancelled.
- DEC. 8** Handbell Christmas Concert in Rehearsal Room. Christmas stories poems and cookies will be part of this special time. You won't want to miss this annual event.
- DEC. 15** Missions emphasis with Lois Derksen. Lois will introduce to our class a representative from one of our missions partners.
- DEC. 22** Pastor Gordon Dirks with another inspiring session on, "The Good and Beautiful God." During this special Christmas season we will celebrate that God became human for us.
- DEC. 29** Christmas Week. Class is cancelled.

**MARANATHA ADULTS VISITATION:** Rod Martens leads a visitation team that will come alongside any senior adult who requests a visit. Whether you are in a senior's facility, hospital, hospice, or your own home, someone from this team will be happy to visit with you, pray and serve communion if desired. Members of this team love to visit our senior adults with the gift of friendship and caring. Contact Rod at: [rod.martens@shaw.ca](mailto:rod.martens@shaw.ca) or phone 403-285-8990.

### **MARANATHA ADULTS HOME HANDYMAN SERVICE:**

Handymen services include: plumbing, electrical & carpentry repairs. Cost of qualified handymen is free, however cost of materials will be discussed. Phone: Greg Pask at 403.292.5160 or 403.861.5361. if you have a need for repairs in your home.

## CSC Appleseed Book Recommendations:

### Out of the Ruins by Karen Barnett, Book 1

Set in the backdrop of San Francisco, California, before the historic earthquake in 1906, Out of the Ruins is a soul-searching tale of death and loss, hope and faith. Karen Barnett has developed a gripping tale of God's faithfulness through fire and flames.

### Beyond the Ashes: The Golden Gate Chronicles, Book 2

Beyond the Ashes is Book #2 in the Golden Gate Chronicles by Karen Barnett. Set in the early 1900's, this book is just past the 'quake and details some of the infant steps of rebirth.

### Through the Shadows by Karen Barnett, Book 3

Through The Shadows by Karen Barnett is the third book in the Golden Gate Chronicles. It is a Christian historical novel set in 1908 in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The novel is all about new beginnings.

## MARANATHA MINISTRY TEAM



**Gordon & Joy Dirks**  
Maranatha Ministry  
Coordinators

To contact us with  
comments or suggestions:

[gedirks@shaw.ca](mailto:gedirks@shaw.ca)  
[ejoydirks@shaw.ca](mailto:ejoydirks@shaw.ca)



**Gordon Elhard**  
Hymn Sing Coordinator



**Henry & Nettie Plett**  
Ticket Coordinators  
403-547-0099

Centre Street Church  
3900 2nd St. NE  
Calgary, AB  
T2E 9C1

403-293-3900  
cschurch.ca

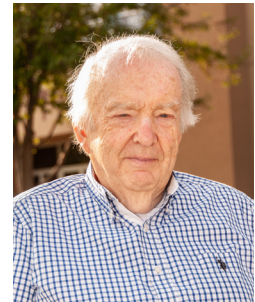
Bev Wolfer - Organist  
David Lee - Saxophonist  
Paul Ungless - Piano  
Eve Wollin - Decorating Coordinator  
Terry Moore - Luncheon Seating  
Rod Martens - Visitation Coordinator  
...and so many others...



**Lyle & Bev Wolfer**  
Usher & Music



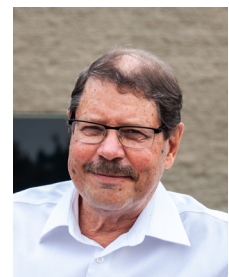
**Terry & Sharon Moore**  
Luncheon Seating  
Coordinator



**Paul Ungless**  
Music Coordinator



**Jodi Woelke**  
Administrative Assistant:  
[jodi.woelke@cschurch.ca](mailto:jodi.woelke@cschurch.ca)  
403-520-2683



**Rod Martens**  
Leader of Visitation Team  
403-285-8990  
[rod.martens@shaw.ca](mailto:rod.martens@shaw.ca)

## PASU FARMS TRIP - JUNE 1, 2019

The Maranatha Adults enjoyed a tour and delicious lunch together at PaSu Farm on June 1, followed by a fun shopping experience at the Airdrie Antique Mall before heading home.



## CENTRAL CAMPUS MINISTRY FAIR AUG 24 - 25, AUG 31 - SEPT 1, SEPT 7-8

Join us for Ministry Fair at Central Campus, Aug 24 - 25, Aug 31- Sept 1 or Sept 7 - 8 weeknds! We'd love to have you visit us in the Atrium to learn more about who we are and what we have to offer. All our Central Campus ministries are excited to meet you and explore opportunities for you to get involved. Visit [cchurch.ca](http://cchurch.ca)

## MARANATHA GAMES CAFE - JULY 10, 2019

A few times a year, our Maranatha adults get together to fellowship at our Games Café. They enjoy a meal together and participate in some fun board games. These are pictures of our most recent Games Café on July 10.



# Save the Date

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER  
BUS TRIP TO ROSEBUD THEATRE  
FOR 'A CHRISTMAS STORY'

**NOV 23**

Cost \$98 ( includes coach, meal,  
performance & gratuities)  
Register and pay on Sept 25 after luncheon  
[seniors@cschurch.ca](mailto:seniors@cschurch.ca) | 403.520.2698

**9 AM  
TO  
5 PM**