

A photograph of a road with a sign that reads "2 METERS = 6 FEET". The road is paved and has a white dashed line down the center. There are utility poles and trees on both sides. A white truck is visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

Maritime MESSENGER

Vol. 58 No. 2 - Spring 2020

MCC AND COVID-19

From the

Chief Operating Officer

by Richard Jones

Our day-to-day world has been swiftly and dramatically altered with the COVID-19 restrictions in our society. We are all uncertain what the future is going to look like, but it seems very likely that we will not simply go back to the way we operated before.

So what does that mean for Maritime Christian College as we plan for classes starting in September 2020?

Well, the good news is that the plans the Board of Directors approved and the staff at MCC started working on this past winter have not changed. Our plans to create new online courses focused on Disciple Making, and offer them in a format that students can access “any time, any where”, are hugely beneficial to making Christian higher education even more accessible.

In early March (before international travel was restricted), several of us from Maritime Christian College got to attend the Exponential conference in Orlando, FL which is the largest conference in the world on starting new churches. I had the privilege of attending a pre-conference workshop titled Activating Level 5 Disciple Making Churches, hosted by Discipleship.org and led by Bobby Harrington. This workshop, and many others like it during the Exponential conference, gave powerful validation that MCC is on the right track with its approach of providing more resources to focus on and support disciple making.

As MCC is working to have online material ready for the fall, we are continuing to source content on disciple making from people who are leading this movement. We are working with Renew.org to embed some of their core material into our new Certificate in Disciple Making. We are doing a “digital replatforming” to ensure our website and social media strategy supports our new online offerings. We are learning how to make engaging content using video embedded into the course content and our Learning Management System.

Most importantly, though, we are providing this content for anyone in our Restoration movement who wants to become a better disciple maker.

As we are developing these new online courses, MCC has several people outside our current student body who are doing early testing of the course material. They are learning how to use our online Learning Management System, reading the assigned books, and doing the assigned homework to provide their input on how well it fits together. We are very grateful to these “beta testers” and I hope to be able to recognize their contribution more formally in the future!

When our Certificate in Disciple Making formally launches this fall with the first course offerings, I am encouraging anyone who wants to become a more effective disciple maker to take some of the courses. We are designing them to not only improve a student’s Biblical knowledge of disciple making, but also to provide practical hands-on support on applying this knowledge with a qualified mentor.



KT Norris Lectures

PRAYER, PARABLES, AND POWER:

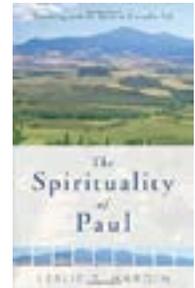
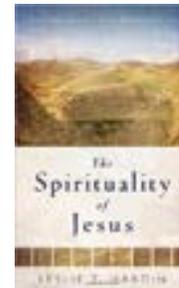
Spiritual Vitality in Biblical Thought

MARCH 10-13, 2020

Dr. Les Hardin, Professor of New Testament at Johnson University Florida, highlighted Jesus' teaching on parables during the K. T. Norris Lectures. Dr. Hardin explored the spirituality of Jesus and the spirituality of the Apostle Paul. Throughout the week news of Covid-19 spread as the first reported cases were hitting key cities within the States and Canada.

Despite meeting our budget for the Lectures, Covid-19 overshadowed the week's excellent teaching and discussion times. Following Dr. Hardin's return flight to Florida, he commented, *"They were happy to get rid of me; the plane was almost empty; but the Florida airport was crazy."*

The good news is you can view the sessions on YouTube.com on Maritime Christian College's YouTube channel: maritimecc. Dr. Hardin has published three books which you can find on amazon.ca and chapters.indigo.ca: *Letters for Micah*, *The Spirituality of Jesus* and *The Spirituality of Paul*.



Meeting the Challenge AROUND THE MARITIMES

Halifax Christian Church

At Halifax Christian Church (halifaxchristianchurch.ca) we're live streaming on our Facebook and YouTube pages Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. We've created digital connect and prayer forms for people to be able to connect with us.



Our Glow Kids director has pre-recorded lessons that are available online. We have a webpage full of discussion guides, worship music, games, etc. for kids. We are pushing an app our kids' ministry uses; our main aim is to equip parents with tools to disciple their kids.

In addition to our regular email, we've created a daily devotion, and are working to be more present on social

media. We are working to get as many of our life groups online as possible. Our youth ministry is doing a weekly Zoom meeting with games and a Bible study.

Leaders within our congregation are calling members of the congregation to see if there is any way that we can pray for or support them. We've asked our members to serve their neighbours in order to show the love of Christ.

As the situation evolves, we're doing our best to provide ways for people to connect and contribute to the ministry at HCC.

James Stevenson ('16)



South Range Christian Church

At South Range we are keeping it pretty simple right now. Between the church leadership we are calling members and checking in with them.

I am doing a time of Communion online through YouTube, pre-recorded with a timed release because of bad rural internet. Others are recording worship and sending it to me to be posted with Communion.

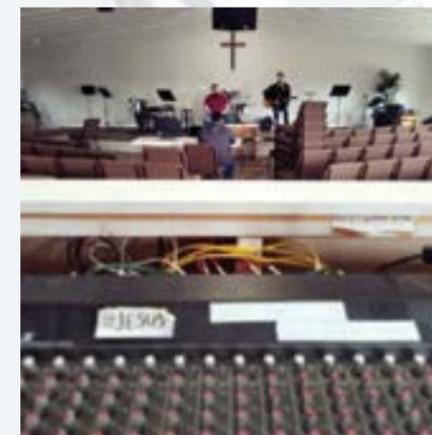
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCudOSvLWIN4UoG-v-cK4jvg>

We also have started something we are calling Table Talks. It's one page with an assigned Bible chapter to read together as a family, household or individual, and a handful of questions to discuss or answer on your own.

Josh Stevenson ('15)



Cornwall Christian Church



Our Sunday morning services air on Facebook Live at 10 am through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CornwallCCPEI/>. During these services we offer a time of worship, a sermon, and a time of

Communion. We have been reaching more people through our Facebook Live videos than we could ever fit in our church building.

I have been putting together videos for our children that are posted on our Kid's Church Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Cornwall-Kids-Church-102884584601726/?modal=admin_todo_tour and just recently to a YouTube channel called Cornwall Kids' Church. These videos are Kids' Church lessons including a Bible story and object lesson, or just something silly and fun like singing songs.

On Facebook, our two most popular posts were asking "Does Pineapple Belong on Pizza?" and "What is the greatest video game ever?" These two questions garnered more discussion than any of our other Facebook posts.

One small group has been connecting via Zoom every week and we have heard from many of our congregation members about how they are connecting via video chats and messages. We have also seen many of our members step up and ask how they can help either folks in our congregation or folks in our community that need help. This pandemic has been a learning curve but also a blessing to see the strength of connection our congregation shares and their willingness to jump in and help wherever they can.



Megan Davies ('16)

Sherwood Christian Church

The Covid crisis has caused us to step up our online game. Carey Nieuwhof says, "If you don't think online matters, ask Sears if they think Amazon matters." It has been amazing to see the reach our online presence has. We are now in the process of upgrading all elements of our online broadcast. Seeing a number like 50 viewers may not seem like many on a Facebook Live broadcast until we remember that it is 50 households, many of them beyond our normal reach.



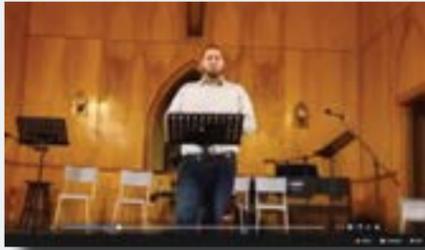
We've also debuted a kids program that runs live every Sunday Morning at 10 am on this page: <https://www.facebook.com/SCCKingskids>. Content can be viewed here too: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTdCqOUBw_qdCJPdngRcLA.

Ben Foreman ('06)



Covid-19 has certainly brought some significant changes and challenges to Sherwood Christian Church. We have been broadcasting via Facebook Live every Sunday at <https://www.facebook.com/SherwoodChristianChurch> and on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTdCqOUBw_qdCJPdngRcLA. We also have encouraging videos per week on the same page. Furthermore, our leadership check in with everyone systematically. We are also setting up a buddy system for members to contact one another.

Weymouth Church of Christ



Online services are each Sunday morning, at 11:00 am on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/weymouthchurch/).

During our time of Worship online we encourage our congregation and have project ideas for how we can continue to be the Church at home and beyond.

During our service, we encourage people to interact and enjoy conversation in the comments both before and after our service to enhance their time of fellowship.

Each week someone different has been leading worship from their home and we have the words on the screen, to encourage people to sing along from home. We do the same for our Message time and encourage people to open their Bibles and download the additional resources we provide for our services. The additional resources I refer to are conversation guides pertaining to the Message & also Kid's Activity packs which we have made available via our Website: www.weymouthchurch.wix.com/weymouthchurch/familystudy. In the weeks to come, we also have plans to incorporate a time of Communion as well.

Grocery & Prescription Pick-up for the Elderly: For those 65 years and older, or disabled or a relative who is taking care of a loved one, we have extended our support to our community getting essential items. We are in partnership with Seniors Safety in our area, who is affiliated with the Local Police.

Emergency Relief: We know that a lot of people in our community have been laid off. There have been some folks in this time that we have offered to help financially by helping purchase essential items to help them through this time. Through our partnership with seniors safety, we are able to get gift cards for any financial aid for Senior citizens.



Communication: Our leadership meets weekly via Skype as we always have for Prayer. During that time we discuss needs & pray over them. As mentioned, our leadership is constantly in touch with our people either by phone or by email so we are trying our best to stay in touch with our people.

Darrell Haines ('09)

Burt's Corner Christian Church

At the Burt's Corner Christian Church we are releasing short videos approximately every other day with a devotional thought, a prayer to pray or a resource to use. On Sunday morning I release a video of my family sharing in Communion so that viewers can follow along and share with us or

use it as a starting place to lead their own. Once a week I make as many calls and send as many emails and Facebook messages as I can to connect with members and have been encouraging them to contact each other as well.

Dan Foreman ('16)



O'Leary & Greenmount Churches of Christ



I put a complete worship service on YouTube each week with traditional hymns, Communion Service, and a message. There will be a link to this service each week on my own Facebook page, as well as the Facebook pages for the Greenmount Church of Christ, and also the Facebook page of the O'Leary

Church of Christ. Some like to receive a link to the service in their emails each week. Message me with your email address, and I would be happy to add you to that list.

Gordon Weatherby ('86)

Montague Church of Christ



We are continuing to have service online at 10:30 am on Sundays. We are live on Facebook and the message is put on the church website in the afternoon. Our Pastor and Elders have a contact list for our church family and try to make a couple calls a day so that we can reach out to everyone during this time. We have contacted the 3 local schools to let them know that if there is a way to help, we would like to offer

support. We are also putting out a mid week short Facebook video to check in and offer encouragement as well as a link or two for items to read or check out through the week. On Saturday's we send an email that includes a couple items for the kids, crossword's, word puzzles and items that relate to Sunday's message. We also try to offer something for the kids during service to engage them as well.

Stephen Vessey ('16)



Fredericton Christian Church

Sunday Service: Our online service consists of prayer, a worship reading from the back of our praise hymnal, Communion from home, and a sermon. We live stream to our Fredericton Christian Church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FrederictonChristianChurch>) through a platform called be.live, which allows us to have others come into the live stream and lead in prayer, worship and deliver a Communion thought from their own homes, after which I preach a message from home.

Bible Study: I live stream to our Facebook page through be.live. Our current series is 'Ask Us Anything' where I partner with other pastors

and elders from our sister churches in an informal 'faith-off-the-cuff' style Q&A with viewer participation in the chat.

Children: We have different activities and challenges for the children to complete each week that will be presented on the Sunday service live stream.

Prayer & Communication: I am reaching out to our congregation via phone, email, and social media to pray with them and make sure any needs are met.

Jason McVicar ('09)



Murray Harbour Church of Christ

I started by emailing my sermon to those in the church for whom I had email contact. I put out a letter during the week before Easter, (snail mail to all the households in the church), a greeting for the day, informing everyone that they could email me contact info if they hadn't been getting my Sunday emails, and options for continuing to worship with giving. I received several more contacts that way.

In my emails, I include links to other services online,

Weymouth, Gordon, sometimes Keele - and others - my sermon (text) and a song or two I find that is timely (youtube.com).

Several respond on a regular basis indicating they are appreciating the emails and sermons. But not doing anything live online.

Victor McCullough ('81)



Central Street Christian Church

During the COVID-19 situation our church is doing the following.

Service: Online Service goes to Facebook Livestream at 9:55 am. It consists of a lot of the things we do normally in our church service, a call to worship, prayer, praise & music, Communion meditation, and message. We livestream directly on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/centralstreetchristian/>). As the situation moves forward, we are now asking people to record themselves doing the Communion thought, call to worship, and so on. These will be included into our online services. We are looking for authenticity and genuineness and not quality of the videos.

Worship & Prayer Mini-Services:

We have every other day, during the weekdays, a mini-service that includes songs and prayer for prayer requests that is livestreamed directly on our Facebook page. These are lead by one of our church leaders and their daughter.

Bible Study: Our current Bible study groups/Lifegroups are in contact with each other to formulate a Bible Study as the situation changes. We have a lead study group on Tuesday nights, and they meet online via Facebook Messenger.

Communication: We send updates via e-mail and post the same announcement on our website

(<https://csccei.com/notices/>) and our Facebook page. We have also assigned our Elders a list of people to connect with and pray for during this time. We are encouraging people to use their video call options, whether on their smart phone & devices or social media platforms. This has been a great learning curve for our congregation.

Robbie Sevilla ('10)



Central Christian Church



We have a simple online live service on Sunday morning, at 11:00 pm. We broadcast on Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/centralpei/videos/155262802572899/>. We do 3-4 songs, a scripture reading, prayer, a message, and the Lord's Supper, of which all partake at home in unison. We have teamed up with New Glasgow Christian Church for our services.

Two encouraging and thoughtful pastoral epistles are sent out each week to guide people in their private and family devotions. These are also available on our website.

We have an online prayer team that keep in contact with each other and pray for the needs of the church. A ministry team of five are also co-ordinating phone calls and any requests for practical ministries. Our congregation is doing an amazing job of staying in contact with each other via the phone and social media. Really a priesthood of all believers.

Debi White is in regular contact with our kidz group, and we have been having Zoom meetings with our college group. We have had former members join us from Halifax, Bahamas and Australia.

Tammy (office admin), Kathy (janitorial) and I tend to come into the office but keep our safe distances.

Callum Beck



COVID-19 Response on Campus

by Stephen Weatherby

While I have been busy with maintenance and the backyard project, most of my time over the last month and a half has been spent responding to COVID-19. In regards to cleaning, I am currently sanitizing all common surfaces in the building daily with a bleach solution from a large sprayer. This has to be sprayed on all door knobs, railings, taps, sink handles, tables, counters, etc.

Unfortunately we also temporarily lost our cleaning company in mid march due to the pandemic. I took up the cleaning of the building from that time until about a week ago. We were able to recruit a resident to take over the cleaning duties temporarily in exchange for their rent through the Resident Assistant Grant / Scholarship. This has freed up most of my time to once again focus on the building maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we implemented some new policies for residents. All staff (save myself) began working from home in mid-late march, and the building and facilities were then closed to the general public. Residents were no longer permitted to have any guests in the building for any purpose after that time.

All residents are required to wash their hands immediately upon entering the building. They are also required to immediately dispose of any gloves upon entering the building in a provided garbage bin. Signage has been posted at both the entryway and throughout the building regarding COVID-19, social distancing, and handwashing. In addition, we were required by PEI public health to implement a meal schedule for peak kitchen hours, and to post signage through the building regarding the gathering limit of 5 people in one area. While MCC's residence is in some ways considered the same as one household, PEI Public Health did tell me that we are

required to maintain the gathering limit of 5 people or less in one area. We have posted signs in all common areas to this effect.

For the most part, the response of residents to these measures has been positive. Due to the seriousness of the situation (We have one resident who is severely immunocompromised from cancer treatment), a new 3 tiered response has been adopted following PEI Public Health Measures, and MCC Health policy. The new 3 tiered response was communicated to the residents in a group meeting, and largely met with support.

We requisitioned the Guest Suite to prepare as an isolation suite, in case any resident needs to self-isolate due to illness. This has been completely cleaned, is prepared with a full bathroom, bedroom, dining area and kitchen area,

and a self-isolation guideline document has been prepared for the room with applicable information and numbers for assistance.



We partitioned off the business hallway. The glass door at the entryway has been locked to prevent

residents from coming down the hallway to the offices and our apartments, and plastic sheeting has been temporarily erected at the other end by the elevator. This sheeting has a rope to pull that quickly brings the whole thing down in case of fire, and also has a zipper door in the middle that can be opened. This allows us to distance from the residents for the most part, while still giving me access to my office, and giving us access to our own dedicated exterior door. This allows Larissa and I to enter and exit the building without sharing common surfaces with residents.



Exponential 2020

Pictured are Richard Jones, Colby Stewart, Tom Marshall, Madison Willows, Katie Reid, Karen Cook, Tim Cook (not pictured Nancy Jones) at Exponential in Orlando, FL.

“Exponentials’ theme this year was about the great collaboration. When it comes to collaborations one of the main aspects are relationships. Michael Carrion said it best when he said, ‘People don’t remember your theology, your three points, or your poem. They remember if you loved them or not.’” - Colby Stewart

ALUMNUS EARNS DOCTORATE

In August 2019, Brenton Dickieson successfully defended his PhD at the University of Chester. His PhD is in theology and literature, looking at the ways that C.S. Lewis shapes spiritual life in his stories, letters, and Christian books. His dissertation is titled, “‘The Great Story on Which the Plot Turns’: Cruciformity in C.S. Lewis’ Narrative Spiritual Theology,” and should be published in 2021.

Dr. Dickieson began his academic career at MCC, graduating in 1997 with a BA (Bible). Following ministries in Alberta and Japan, he completed a Master’s degree in New Testament Literature at Regent College in Vancouver, BC. Since returning home to PEI, Brenton has been teaching theology and literature courses at MCC. You can follow his work at www.aPilgrimInNarnia.com.



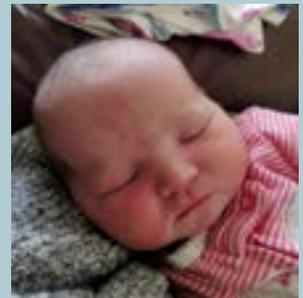
Alumni News



Josh ('15) and Katie ('15) Stevenson are now living in Digby, NS. Josh began as the Senior Minister at South Range Church of Christ in November 2019.



Stephen ('14) and Larissa Weatherby moved to MCC and took over the Building Supervisor position looking after maintenance and rentals in November 2019.



It's A Girl
Josh ('15) and Katie ('15) Stevenson welcomed **Iris Eden Stevenson** on April 3, 2020
8 lbs 14 oz

In Loving Memory

December 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

In Memory of:

By:

GREGORY ANDERSON – Hampton, NB	Nauwigewauk Christian Church
AGNES “PEGGY” ELEANOR BALLARD – Hampton, NB	Nauwigewauk Christian Church
GAVIN BELL – Murray Harbour, PE	Elva Bell; Gregory & Laurie Bell
ADRICE COLLICUTT – O’Leary, PE	Revada Bowness; Charles & Dawna MacNeill; O’Leary Church of Christ
BLAIR & ADRICE COLLICUTT – O’Leary, PE	Heather Morehouse
GEOFFREY CONLEY – Leonardville, NB	Darrel Stewart
JUNE COSMAN – Weymouth, NS	Bruce & Debbie Hankinson
CHRISTINA FOSTER – Fredericton, NB	Al & Sheila Decoste
EUGENE & JEAN FOSTER – Fredericton, NB	Al & Sheila Decoste
RALPH & MYRNA FOSTER – Burt’s Corner, NB	Al & Sheila Decoste
WILLIAM & VIOLET FOSTER – Burt’s Corner, NB	Al & Sheila Decoste
RAYMOND HAINES – Douglas, NB	Hilda Haines
GARNET JONES – Burt’s Corner, NB	Heather Jones; Mary Jones
HEATHER JONES – Weymouth, NS	Bruce & Debbie Hankinson
JOHN MACKAY – Murray Harbour, PE	Enid Clements
NORMAN MACKAY – Charlottetown, PE	Bruce & Debbie Hankinson
SILAS & BERTHA MACKAY – Murray Harbour, PE	Donald & Elizabeth Goudey
PARKER MANZER – Ashmore, NS	Bruce & Debbie Hankinson
JAMES MCDORMAND – Westport, NS	Victor & Amy McCullough
BRIAN OHL – Murray Harbour, PE	Kerrilee Bell
EARL, GORDIE & BRIAN OHL – Murray Harbour, PE	Gregory & Laurie Bell; Shirley Calder
LEONARD & PHYLLIS RODGERS – Fredericton, NB	Al & Sheila Decoste
CHERYL STEWART – Fredericton, NB	Darrel Stewart
GERALD STEWART – Fredericton, NB	Darrel Stewart
LORETTA STEWART – Fredericton, NB	Darrel Stewart
RICK WAGNER – Weymouth, NS	Bruce & Debbie Hankinson
PANSY WEBSTER – Covehead, PE	Donald & Mary Hickox
JEAN WHEATLEY – Charlottetown, PE	Donald & Mary Hickox

Please Note:

Memorial gift donations will be published in the Maritime Messenger and a card sent to the next of kin if the name and address are included with your donation.

In Honor of donations will be recognized with a card sent to the honoree if the name and address are included with your donation.



Published by:

Maritime Christian College
503 University Avenue
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7Z4
Phone: 902-628-8887
Fax: 902-892-3959
registrar@mccpei.com
www.mccpei.com

US Donation Address:

National Christian Foundation
70 E 91st Street, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Cheques payable to: National Christian Foundation

Memo: MCC, Fund # 1103649

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Stewardship Policy:

“Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for a program or project will be used where needed most.”

Disciple Maker Certificate

Making Disciples the Way Jesus Did



Photo by Helena Lopes on Unsplash

Online Learning - Beginning September 2020



503 University Ave., Charlottetown, PE C1A 7Z4
Phone: 902-628-8887 Fax: 902-892-3959
www.mccpei.com

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