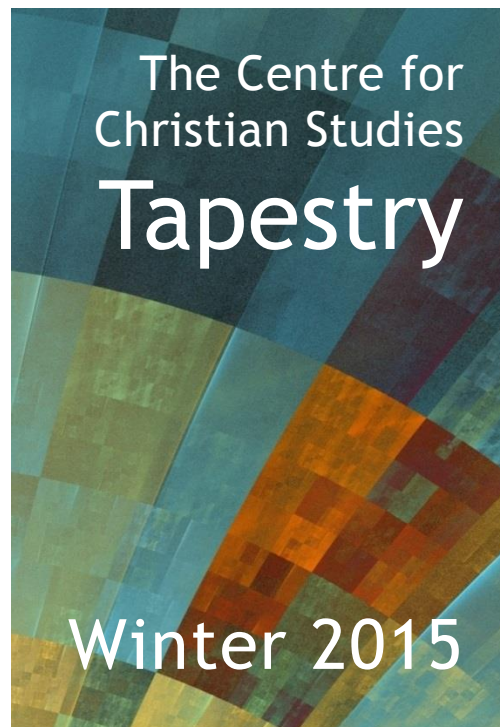


CCS Pastoral Care Year students with Loss & Lamentation event participants



EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION

TAKE NOTE

From Strength to Strength

Jim Boyles' long service as a CCS volunteer began with talking to a learning circle about Anglican polity back in the 1970s. Since then he has served on the Central Council at pivotal times: doing strategic planning with Gwyn Griffith, evaluating a report on moving to Winnipeg, and searching for a new Principal (Megan McKenzie).

"In all, I think I've served on the Council a total of 15 years," Jim says. "Through the decades the emphasis on *community* is one of the keys, and

one of the gifts that the Centre offers to the churches, and indeed to the world."

As Jim approaches the end of his 6-year term as co-chair of the Central Council, he offers the following blessing, "May CCS thrive, and go from strength to strength."

Thanks to volunteers like Jim, it may.

CCS Annual General Meeting

The Centre for Christian Studies AGM will be held on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th** at 6:00pm CST. Look for the Annual Report on the CCS website (www.ccsonline.ca) in mid-February, and join us in person at Woodsworth House (60 Maryland) or by phone.

Email Terry at office@ccsonline.ca for conference call information.



Application Deadlines

Leadership Development Module:

May 1 for June 8-20 in Montreal

June 1 for August 10-22 in Winnipeg

Diaconal Ministries Program: June 1 for 2015-2016 Social Ministry Theme Year



Annual Service of Celebration

The 2015 ASC weekend will be **APRIL 18th & 19th** in Winnipeg. Two students, **Mark Laird** and **Jim Hatt**, will be graduating from the Diaconal Ministries program, and we will be honouring the 2015 recipient of the Companion of the Centre Award – **Irene Rainey!**

PASSAGES

We remember those grads (CCS, AWTC and UCTS) who have recently passed away...

Geraldine Bould : UCC grad 1956

Mary Pyne : UCC grad 1950

Nellie Spicer : Mentor, Learning Facilitator, and UCC grad 2000

Edith Shore : Companion of the Centre and Anglican grad 1958



DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to our 2014 Friends and Supporters! Each and every one of the 155 of you who responded to our Annual Campaign, and the 218 who gave in the year, are contributing to the success stories of our students. 6 of you became PAR donors and 7 of you increased your pledge through PAR for 2015. 28 of you are new donors. You rock!

This year we raised a total of \$81,647, half of it given through Pre-Authorized Remittance. Thank you!

Thanks to you, CCS is preparing students, like Don and Catherine, for faithful work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Centre for Christian Studies

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CCS students Don Evans and Cathy Underhill.

Healing Hearts

"It breaks my heart when I sit with someone who has transitioned out of foster care, who's lost all their supports and has no other option than to live on the street or in an overnight shelter."

A broken heart is what CCS student **Don Evans** brings to his work as Executive Director of Our Place, a ministry that serves those who are vulnerable, hungry, homeless, and hurting in downtown Victoria. But Our Place is more than just services and programs. Don calls it "a place of hope and belonging", where healing of broken hearts takes place every day. "Everyone is welcome. We don't turn anyone away. We offer unconditional love in a nonjudgmental way. We refer to everyone as family instead of clients or guests."

Before working with not-for-profits, Don's analytical skills propelled his ability in the business world. As a student at the Centre for Christian Studies he's learning how to listen and seek opportunities that will not just improve lives, but transform them, inspired by the Spirit.



At her field placement at a local hospital, CCS student **Catherine**

Underhill ended an Advent service with a ritual where participants were anointed with oil.

Afterwards, Gladys, a woman from the long-term care unit, asked if Catherine would bless her room, an invitation accepted cautiously knowing that Gladys' history of living on the street meant she was wary. At her room Gladys began by asking for blessings for her door, her bed, and her stuffed animals.

"Then," Catherine says, "Came the biggest honour I could have received. She pulled out from a secure place in her closet, a bag from which she unwrapped three Bibles, her secret treasures. The first belonged to her grandmother, the second was her father's Masonic Bible, and the third was her mother's, signed and dated. As I blessed these Bibles, I sensed the gift of deep trust she was sharing with me."

You make it possible for Don and Catherine to learn how to effectively be agents of healing, hope, and belonging.

SPREAD THE WORD

Included with this newsletter is a 11"x17" poster. Why not stick it up somewhere?

Explore learning in sacred community with the

Centre for Christian Studies

Reflect.



Diaconal Calling

The 4-Year Diploma in Diaconal Ministries program prepares students for transformative leadership in a changing church and a changing world. The program combines regular Learning Circles at CCS, practical field experience in a student's home community, online engagement through assignments, academic courses, global exposure, and intentional reflection and integration.



Leadership Development

The LDM (Leadership Development Module) is a 2-week intensive in faith-filled leadership. Learn group facilitation, participatory education, action-reflection, self-awareness, dealing with conflict, collaborative planning, theological reflection, and empowerment.

Act.

Education & Worship

The CCS Educational & Liturgical Ministry theme year explores tools for engagement and transformation. Learn to design workshops, preach and plan worship, lead youth groups, make interfaith & ecumenical connections, etc.



Pastoral Care

The CCS Pastoral Care theme year explores various practices of faithful caring and counselling in community. Learn to support people in grief, seniors, youth and children, people living with disease or mental illness, or anyone who struggles with life.



Social Justice

The CCS Social Ministry theme year explores the practices of social analysis and advocacy. Learn to confront issues of poverty, racism, gender discrimination & homophobia, ecological justice, reconciliation & solidarity with Indigenous peoples.



Be Transformed.