



Barbara Hansen joins others standing in solidarity with the Tsleil-Waututh Water Protectors at the Kinder Morgan pipeline site in Burnaby, BC, April 28, 2018.

Tapestry

Spring 2018

EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION

You helped this leader become a more faithful ally

Barbara Hansen already had a heart for justice when she arrived as a student at CCS. In fact, she met her spouse, Stephen, at a hearing in Calgary about the Mackenzie pipeline 42 years ago. On April 28 of this year, the 2014 CCS graduate boarded a bus with about 49 other people from Vancouver Island, to stand in solidarity with the Water Protectors in opposition of the Trans Mountain pipeline at the Kinder Morgan site in Burnaby, BC.

What made her catch a 7 a.m. ferry to spend a Saturday outside in the rain? Both her sense of being called to a ministry of standing with the marginalized and oppressed, and her belief that ministry includes all of creation. Barbara said, "Sadly, the process for the Trans Mountain pipeline misrepresents the issues and the fairness of the results of the process. The rights of Indigenous people are not being respected, and

because the cost of being heard is still prohibitive their voices are not being heard. Their traditional way of life, inclusive of all creation towards the



Prayers posted on the gate at Kinder Morgan.

future, is being ignored for the sake of "progress", resulting in increased emissions and environmental impacts from fossil fuels.

"In 2018 when people choose actions of civil disobedience at the gates of Kinder Morgan and intentionally block the gate, the police will come," she continued. "We witnessed people

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PASSAGES

We remember grads (CCS, AWTC and UTCS), friends and Companions who have recently passed away:

Alice J. Farquharson
UCC grad 1960

Wilma Sharpe
UCC Grad 1960

Jessie MacLeod
UCC grad 1946
Companion of the Centre, 2013

Thriving beyond walls - how a legacy gift continues to touch lives

Your congregation has assets that have been built up over years of faithful mission. Read how one community decided to use their resources as a lasting gift that will help equip ministry leaders for years to come.



Former Binscarth United Church

The end of a congregation and the closing of a church conjure up a variety of feelings. Hopefulness is generally not one of them. For Peggy Bradshaw of Binscarth United Church in Binscarth, Manitoba, however, it felt like her congregation was making the best decision from a place of strength.

The Binscarth United Church had been without a minister for five years. As a community they continued to worship and carry out their mission themselves. But as people left and volunteers got older, they began talking about what would happen if they closed.

In the fall of 2014, the worship committee said, "We can't do this anymore." They hired Jamie Bradshaw (Peggy's sister-in-law), a Centre for Christian Studies graduate

and trusted former member of the congregation, to help them move from talk to action toward closing. "The steps were daunting", says Peggy, "but we worked through them with good communication and support from Presbytery. Many congregations don't know how to close and don't want to close. We weren't closing because we didn't have money. It was wonderful to be able to give it away." It's not that people weren't sad, but they could also see the possibilities to help others.

Among other things, Binscarth United Church's assets have benefited church and community in nearby Russell. From the sale of the building and other assets, a gift of \$10,000 was donated as the



Jen Prince (facing camera on the right) deep in reflection with classmates.

"Binscarth United Church Bursary" to the Centre for Christian Studies Bursary Fund. Peggy explained why, "Jamie studied there and from day one we supported her. Now we can support other CCS students who don't have it so easy."

Jen Prince is one of the students who has received a bursary to study at the Centre for Christian Studies. Her family didn't have funds to pay for her to attend. She says, "I went through discernment and was very excited about everything to do with diaconal ministry but I kept thinking about what it was going to cost. I applied for a CCS bursary and it came through! This whole thing would not be happening without the bursary piece of the puzzle." This past year, Jen has focussed her field studies on spiritual care. She credits CCS with enabling her to walk compassionately with families through times of death. She also says, "I am more cognizant of looking for privilege and who might be left out or pushed into the margins because of what I have learned at CCS; the critical

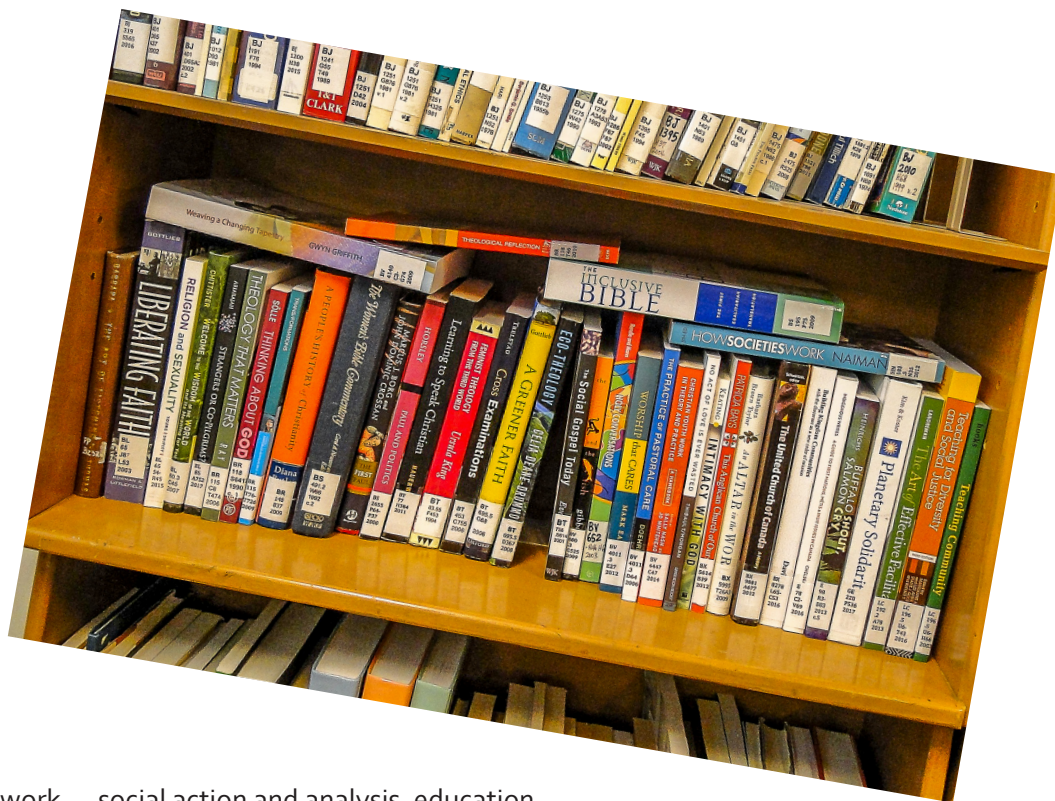
thinking skills that I am learning are crucial in seeing more dimensions to an issue than I might have otherwise. Also, I am a better listener."

Peggy, who sees the repurposed Binscarth church building every day, is reminded that her church continues to thrive beyond those

walls through the generous actions of a caring community.

Your support of theological education is an investment in leaders for the ministries this world needs. You can make it happen. ~Lori Stewart

Thanks for the great read!



One of the luxuries of coming to work at the Centre for Christian Studies is the access to our excellent library. What a joy to think of a book or a topic and be able to walk down the stairs and find current thoughtful reflection on the shelves. I remember my own time as a student, trying to make room in my suitcase for library books on the return flight home from learning circles!

Our library collection is intentionally curated and focuses on areas such as diaconal ministry and history, feminist and liberation theology,

social action and analysis, education and spiritual care. We have an interlibrary lending agreement with the University of Winnipeg, the Canadian Mennonite University William & Catherine Booth College, the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, and the Institute for Urban Studies. Our students and staff can borrow from their libraries, and their students and staff can borrow from ours. Arrangements can also be made for members of the wider community to make use of our library resource by signing up for "Friend of CCS" borrowing privileges (\$25).

Although part of the joy of being in the library is recognizing the books and authors that shaped my own theological understanding of a practice of ministry – another facet of joy is seeing how your donations to the Centre for Christian Studies purchase new acquisitions and keep our bookshelves current and ever diversifying.

~Michelle Owens

Living out a spirit of abundance and gratitude.

Faithful ally cont'd from page 1

willing to be arrested, willing to go to court, people of faith among them." Seven faith leaders were arrested for violating the court-issued injunction on April 28. Over 200 people have been arrested since March 10.

"CCS helped strengthen my commitment as a practicing Christian and leader," Barbara said. "As followers of Jesus – and I add, especially as people who are privileged because of our occupation

of indigenous lands and our excessive use of environmentally damaging fossil fuels - we are called to action on the side of the oppressed. How else can we be?"

Reflections from the Class of 2018

Tif McNaughton - "The ebb and flow of my student schedule combined with my student status lend themselves to some privileges and opportunities." These included: attending the World Council of Churches assembly in South Korea; learning the interpersonal side of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on a canoe trip with settler and indigenous women; participating in a delegation to China with moderator Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell and UCC folks from across Canada and participating in contemplative social justice leadership training. She says, "these experiences combined with our CCS learning to stir in me an unexpected interest in missiology and a passion for supporting rural congregations in feeling connected to the wider, wilder church."

Melanie Ihmels - "A key thing about Diaconal Ministry for me is Jesus. His birth, life, and death are all motivational but his actions as a teacher, as a brother, as a friend to the people he worked, walked, and lived with every day, and to himself, ground me in the 'who' I am striving to be. I read about him going to the mountaintop to pray alone, to Be still and know who God is. I see him calling out to those society considered the bottom of

the barrel, and them choosing to see his light. I see him hugging a child, loving the sick, joyful at relationship, angry at injustice and those are my grounding guidelines."

Anita Rowland - "At CCS, I learned that the most painful words to hear can be the most useful and life-giving. That while charity is ok,

enough. Really. And breathe!" She appreciates the manner in which she has been met where she is, and challenged to move beyond that: to look at things in new and very unsettling ways, to stretch beyond what is comfortable.

Cathy Underhill - "Studies at CCS have been most enriched by

learning the skills and value of pastoral relationships. For me, listening is a way towards right relations with all my neighbours." Arriving at CCS with a background in horticulture, she is passionate about eco-theology. For

her, this is about connection to the rhythms of the Universe, the interdependence of community and creation; and connecting this to Christian responsibility. She has spent much of her CCS journey learning about and practicing right relations with indigenous peoples in her area.



Tif McNaughton, Melanie Ihmels, Anita Rowland, Cathy Underhill

justice is the preferred way as the path to peace. That I am called to stand with those who are shoved aside, that we are all beloved by God, and that I am already



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