



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

# Tapestry

Summer 2020

EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION



*At the Centre for Christian Studies, we emphasize context in the practice of ministry and theological reflection – the importance of recognizing that our location shapes our perspectives and actions. Months into a global pandemic, we are starting to reflect on how our contexts are shaping our experiences of living through this time. As one comment circulating online says “We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat”. We thought we would ask some members of our community to reflect on the experience from their ‘boat’ so far.*

*A sign protest in support of Black Lives Matter hosted by Elaine Kellogg’s church.*

## Covid can’t cancel community

### David Lappano

CCS Program Staff living in the United Kingdom

The UK is among the countries hit hardest by the COVID pandemic. Where I live, in the east end of London, there are close to 300,000 people in pretty small spaces and dense housing neighbourhoods. Physical distancing is a challenge if everyone goes out for exercise or to pick up a few things from the shop. I’ve noticed that it’s rare to see a plane in the sky now. This is a radical, change. London has four airports and it’s a major flight hub. The air feels noticeably fresher to breathe from fewer vehicles and buses on the roads. Every Thursday at 8 pm people clap and cheer from

their windows and doorsteps as a sign of gratitude for the healthcare workers who are most directly dealing with the virus.

I’m part of a WhatsApp mutual aid group for my region. This has been an online place to co-ordinate getting food and medicine to vulnerable people, to inform folks of their tenant rights, to publicize support networks for people facing abuse or mental health strain during the lockdown.

In the block where I live, each flat has a small garden allotment but there is also a common walkway and common areas, so we are not cut off from our neighbours. People can gather in their gardens

and chat with each other over the short fences while still maintaining physical distancing. Since February four babies have been born – ours included – and other families with older children are sharing whatever gear they have to offer.

### Elaine Kellogg

Diaconal Minister, Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

The first weeks after the great shutdown was all about technology. I spent hours on the phone with a very patient church member as he talked me through how to set up a YouTube account, how to record myself, and all the other various things necessary to try to stay connected with my congregation

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**Far Flung Community, cont'd from page 1**  
through my computer. I am very grateful for online connecting, but it is not as good as being in the same room with people. In the hype about the benefits, I remember that our faith and our church is grounded in relationship.

For years, we've had an arrangement with the local cable TV station to broadcast worship. Isolated nursing home residents have had a continual presence from us, even when we can't see them. A lot of people watch the broadcast who would be unlikely to attend. I have adapted my preaching to speak to the un-churched watchers, which I have found to be a delightful change.

There are times when I have wondered if I am getting far too comfortable with the shut-down. I have loved having my evenings at home, instead of constantly at meetings, fund raising events or rehearsals. As the weather warms up, I'm spending a lot of time in my spacious backyard, which nurtures and relaxes me.

Oh, and we found a way to hold a physically distanced protest in support of Black Lives Matter, by holding a "sign event." We simply advertised the event, the date, told people to wear a mask when they came, and invited community and church members to bring their own sign to put up on the front lawn of the church. It was not large, but it got positive attention from the community.

**Rebecca Pike**  
CCS Student living and working in St. John's Newfoundland  
I did not expect that, in my first year

in paid ministry, I would be running youth groups digitally from my house. I have worked part-time with Gower Street United Church in St. John's as their minister for Children, Youth, and Young Families for almost a year now as I complete my diploma in Diaconal Ministry.

So much has changed from what I was planning this spring. The same week in March that we had planned a large PIE Day event, everything shifted. We made quick decisions to close our building, to live stream worship, and work remotely. After two weeks we switched to video recording our services from home. We have moved all meetings to Zoom, which for me, meant digital youth group. Key for me was working with the youth to maintain our bi-weekly meetings until June.

During this time of physical distancing, connection and staying in touch has been crucial. We work hard to keep families and individuals participating in worship, showing faces and sharing the voices of our community. Members are invited to submit blogs or videos for posting on our website to share experiences with each other, plus the ministry team has increased the frequency of posting to our blog so the congregation can hear from us in a more personal way.

I have taken to heart the learning that our communities have always been greater than the buildings we use as a meeting ground. While the beauty of the building continues and we will return to that space together, our community is stronger coming out of this time because we have learned how to share the message in new and different ways.

## **Sharilynn Upsdell and Jacqueline Samson** Chaplains at separate care homes in British Columbia

Unlike churches which closed in the pandemic, care homes are busier than ever now that there are no volunteers, family members, or outside programs allowed in. As chaplains, Sharilynn and Jacqueline have had to pick up more of the slack connecting with residents in a socially distanced world.

The safety protocols mean that people in independent or assisted living, who ordinarily make their own decisions, are discouraged from gathering or going into the community. Many normally eat together, but now are isolated as they eat alone in their suites. Tenants can walk in the grounds but their lives are constrained, which is causing some anxiety and depression. Complex Care and Dementia Care residents are encouraged to social distance but it's a challenge for people with cognitive impairment.

Sharilynn finds work is very full—there's no spare time and she's tired. Keeping up with the changing health and

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

Dorothy Butler (former student)  
Pauline Graham (grad U 1983)  
Bill Harwood (friend)  
Bill Hickerson (friend)  
Evelyn Turner (friend)



# Meet the 2020 Graduates

## Diploma in Diaconal Ministry

### Christina

**Crawford** is currently serving at Forest United Church, in Forest, ON. She plans to obtain a BTS in Diaconal Ministry at St Stephen's College.



### Karen

**Orlandi** has been called to Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines, where she is currently serving in outreach ministry. She plans to complete her BTS and enroll in the Masters of Social Justice and Equity Program at Brock University.



**Joe Kadi** has worked as a teacher for many years, and for now will be continuing with that work, in addition to sharing his gifts with local communities of faith in Calgary.

### Barb McGill

has accepted a call to congregational ministry in St Catherine's, ON. She looks forward to being in the community, connecting with people and connecting people to the needs of the community.



### Kim

### McNaughton

has answered a provisional call to serve as a commissioned diaconal minister with an ecumenical shared ministry with two congregations in McBride and Valemount, BC. Her hope is to walk with this community, finding ways to live out a shared faith beyond the church walls.



## Certificate in Spiritual Care

### Lorrie

**Lowes** is in team ministry at Bells Corners United Church in Ottawa. She will continue her connection with the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy.



### Alison

### Brooks-Starks

uses what she learned at CCS every day, often outside as she offers individual and group eco-therapy-style walks and events through an ongoing project called Emberwood in Edmonton.



## Learn Something New

The Centre for Christian Studies offers circles for students in our Diploma in Diaconal Ministries or Certificate Programs, as well as for Continuing Studies students.

The fall learning circles are online intensives. See more at [ccsonline.ca](http://ccsonline.ca)

Sept 30 - Oct 7	Ministry as Listening
Oct 21 - 28	Eco-Justice
Jan & Feb	Worship
Apr 14 - 20	Living Scripture
Apr 22 - 28	Grief and Loss
May & June	Ministry as Community Building
June (tentative)	Learning on Purpose



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**Far Flung Community, cont'd from page 2**

safety protocols has been constant. Both chaplains are assessing risk and duty of care all the time.

A day at work begins with screening at the front door, changing into fresh clothes, hand washing, and donning mask and goggles to be with

residents. It gives "put on the full armour of God" new meaning! Everything takes much longer. Jacqueline still leads Sunday worship but can only have 6 people meet together at a time. She has four separate services, one after the other, in order to ensure spiritual needs are met, while disinfecting surfaces between each group.

Jacqueline says remembering what she learned at CCS has been so important. When she was out of her comfort zone as a student and thought she couldn't do what was expected, those were the times when she was most available to listen to the Holy Spirit and learn something new.

**Thank you, Margarete!**

Margarete Emminghaus started working at the Centre for Christian Studies in 1970 when it was a brand-new amalgamation of the Anglican Women's Training College and the United Church Training School. She was the Assistant to the Principal and over the next 18

years took on many roles, capably meeting needs as they arose. Marg gave herself selflessly to everything she did, offering a ministry of care and compassion to the people she worked with.

Designated as a deaconess in 1953, her obituary states that "she was clear about, and focused on, her desire to work and serve within the church". She started out welcoming immigrants to Canada at Pier 1 in Halifax. She then worked as Director of Christian Education at First United Church in Corner Brook and at George St United Church in Peterborough, before joining the Maritime Conference field staff preparing church school leaders for the "New Curriculum". Marg later served for four years as the Girls Work Secretary for the

Board of Christian Education of the national United Church.

When I started working at CCS, I learned that Marg was one of our most loyal donors, giving annually from 1970 for the next 44 years! In a way, it was no surprise when CCS received a gift of life insurance from Marg's estate, a planned gift made during her lifetime to benefit the school on her death. Margarete gave this gift so she could continue to support the training for ministry she valued, and make it available to those who came after her.

If you, like Marg, would like to make a planned gift or leave a gift to the Centre for Christian Studies in your will, request more information with the form below.

**YES! I want to celebrate education for leaders with my gift...**

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**Thank you for your gift!**