

MARCH 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30 PM	2	3	4
5 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am	6	7	8 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am	13	14	15 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am WORSHIP IN THE ROUND- 7:00 PM	20	21	22 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	23	24	25
26 MOSAIC SUNDAY Prayer Time 10:00 am Worship Service& Beginnings 10:30 am	27	28	29 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	30	31	
Weekly Group & Events						
Mondays	Café Drop In 10:00 am-1:00 pm	Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting Class 10:00 am-11:30 pm		ESL Conversation Class 7:00-8:30 pm		
Tuesdays	Dancing Drop In 7:00-8:30 pm					
Wednesday	Café Drop In 10:00 am-1:00 pm	ESL Bible Study 10:00 am-11:00 pm		International Cooking Club/Begineer Sewing Class 11:00 am-12:30 pm		
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm 6927 Rundlehorn Drive N.E. T1Y 3V4				phone: 403.280.2239 office@rockyviewalliance.com		

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TRAIL MIX

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2017



In our culture, there are three strong distractions that keep us from God: noise, hurry, and crowds. Richard Foster wrote, "If Satan can keep us engaged in 'muchness' and 'manyness,' he will rest satisfied". The Lenten season – beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1 this year - offers to us some of the tried and true disciplines of the Christian life to implement in our lives over approximately 40 days leading up to Easter. If practiced, you will offer God a highway on which he can move into your life and lead you beyond the superficialities of our culture. Here are some suggestions that will lead you to a deep encounter with Christ through the true spiritual pilgrimage that Lent offers.

(1) Total Fast on Ash Wednesday (March 1)
To fast is to abstain from something. To practice the Total Fast on Ash Wednesday is to deny yourself all food/solid food throughout the day. Allow the hunger pains to focus you spiritually on the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation that you receive from Christ. Wednesday evening at Rockyview – we will be having an Ash Wednesday Communion Service to conclude the fast. As you meditate on the meaning of the bread and wine and the healing presence of Jesus at the Table, you will be drawn into a deep longing for Christ, to be with Him, to be touched by him in your inner life, to be healed of your pain, and to live fully for Him.

(2) Add a classic spiritual discipline to your life.
For the entirety of Lent, from sundown on Ash Wednesday (March 1) until Easter morning (April 16), add a spiritual discipline to your life. Examples: memorize and meditate on a passage of Scripture each week, set aside time in the morning and/or evening for concentrated prayer while on your knees or sitting in a chair doing nothing else, read Scripture every day, study Scripture, journal your prayers etc.

(3) Lenten Fast
Throughout Lent abstain, (that is, fast) from something in particular. Maybe you will choose to give up meat, or one of your meals during the day, alcohol, coffee or caffeine, perhaps shopping for non-essentials, or TV/screen time (work excepted). The purpose is to give something up that is good and pleasurable and important to your daily life in order to remind you daily to focus on Christ and to be freed up from things that have power in your life. For example, some may fast for the purpose of gaining victory over jealousy, or envy, or lust, or anger, or lack of integrity, overeating etc.

Why Lent?
I know, that for some of us, Ash Wednesday and Lent are foreign and somewhat intimidating. This may be due to the unknown, or to seeing others abuse the real meaning of these rituals, merely going through the motions of an external activity without any internal commitment. For many of us, preparing for Easter over a period of 7 weeks has not been anywhere on our radar. Yes, it is wrong to go through the motions of Ash Wednesday and Lent in a mechanical, uninvolved way. But it is also important not to ignore the opportunity for intentional, communal preparation for Easter. Fortunately, we have an alternative: practice the season of Lent according to its true spiritual intent.

Remember this Lent...

(1) Sunday is never a fast day, because Sunday is the day of the resurrection. It is a day that we rejoice in the work Christ has done for us and will complete for us when He comes again. So on each Sunday of Lent we receive back from the Lord, with gratitude, whatever we are fasting from.

(2) The purpose of fasting is not to accumulate favor in God's eyes. The purpose of fasting is to "establish, maintain, repair, and transform our relationship with God" (Robert Webber). The spiritual disciplines (fasting, prayer, meditation, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration) exist "to move us beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm" (Richard Foster). The disciplines are means through which the grace of God flows into our lives, helps us to focus our attention on God, and purifies the doors of perception so that we are better able to see God.

(3) God is for you this Lent! Lent is a season that invites us, through the practice of spiritual disciplines to seek the face of God more intently, practice confession and reflection on our need for the Cross and Resurrection of Christ, and to deepen our experience of God's presence and blessing. Remember – no matter what Lent brings – God desires to meet with you, bless you and shape you into the image of Christ in every area of your life! He will not let you down this Lent in your pursuit of Him – He is for you!

All of God's grace and peace to you this Lenten Season,

Shawn Vickar
Lead Pastor

SABBATICAL

This past month I have been reflecting on our family’s move to Calgary. We moved from Ottawa 7^{1/2} years ago to take on the position of Family Ministries Pastor here at Rockyview, and it has been such a great journey for our family. Our daughters have grown up here, with our oldest entering the youth group this fall. While there have been some up’s and down’s, (and flood’s), we count it a privilege to work at Rockyview.



Our Family, the first Christmas in Calgary

One of the things that I appreciate at Rockyview is the care that the leadership has for it’s leaders. One aspect of that pastoral care is our sabbatical policy, which states that pastor’s are eligible for a sabbatical after 7 years of consecutive service. A sabbatical is an extended leave of absence from Rockyview for the purpose of rest, to be renewed physically and spiritually, to draw close to God and to spend time with family. A sabbatical is designed to help the pastor to prepare for another season of renewed ministry, flowing from the basic principles in scripture of the year of jubilee where the people and the land are given rest.

My sabbatical will be from May 1- July 23 , 2017. As a family we will be doing some travelling to visit some family. I will be heading to a Family Ministry conference in Colorado Springs. I will be reading some books, and meeting with some other pastor’s and leaders to get some insight and wisdom on this next stage of pastoring can look like for me, and creating a personal vision statement. I will be spending some time reflecting and dreaming, seeking God for what He has in store for Rockyview Families. Other than that I’m going to rest, spend time with God and my wife and daughters, and create some art.

In the time leading up to sabbatical I will be tightening up our Family Ministries team so that they can take care of those ministries while I am away. I’ll be looking for some of our leaders to step up and take on more responsibility, and for some new leaders to join the teams. Will you please pray for a couple of things leading up to, and during sabbatical:

1. Pray for our Family Ministries team comes together and leads well during my absence. I am so thankful for the team of leaders that I get to work with. Pray that they have the wisdom and courage to lead our children and teenagers.
2. Pray that my time with God is refreshing and invigorating from now through sabbatical. My prayer is that I will continue to lean into God now, and even deeper during sabbatical. Pray that God gives me fresh wisdom and insight, and a vision for the future of Family Ministries at Rockyview.
3. Pray that my family can rest and make some great memories together. My hope is that my family benefits from sabbatical as much as I do. Pray that we make the best use of this time together, that it is life-giving and full of lasting memories.

Thanks so much for your support and encouragement of me and my family. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for Rockyview and for my family in the future.

Russ Clugston
Pastor of Family Ministries

Rockyview Family Updates

March Birthdays

03 Elmer Friesen
03 Ken Norris
04 Gini Vickar
05 Bennett McIver (M)
09 Dominic Watson

12 Daniel Hines (M)
15 Theodore Watson
18 Alexa Argue
28 Arielle McIver (M)
31 Anita Kathler

March Anniversaries

25 Mungai, Joseph & Teresia

(M) Denotes an international worker and/or their family members. If you want to be included on this page or would like to be removed, please submit your name and information to the office.

You’re now able to download the latest Trail Mix, the current Sunday Bulletin, and Messages as well as keep up-to-date with news and events from our website at:
www.rockyviewalliance.com



During a recent bout of bad weather, God reminded me that no matter where I am, I have two choices: I can either allow circumstances to affect me negatively or I can use the situation to praise and thank him.

While I was driving home on the day I had this reminder, my normal 30 minute commute was lengthened into an almost 2 hour drive of stop and go traffic with seeming chaos everywhere. At the beginning of my drive, it didn't take long for me to start to feel annoyed and irritated at the delay, the other drivers and the even the bad road conditions. I just wanted to be home for supper with my family. Due to my impatience, I admit that I was feeling less than charitable towards everyone else on the road. At this point, the words of James 3:9-10 came to mind *"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."*

With that, I was reminded about the fact that the other drivers with me on the road were also made in the likeness of God and that I shouldn't be critical towards them. Instead I heard that quiet voice suggesting "why not talk to me instead?" So I started to talk to God and instead of criticizing I prayed for the drivers around me, the road conditions and whatever else came to my mind using Philippians 4:8 *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things".* With this in mind when I saw someone being reckless I prayed for their safety. When I saw someone being over cautious I thanked God for them as I know the driver just wanted to get home safely.

It is amazing how our attitude changes when we make God the focus in the various things we do. My impatience was taken away and a joy and peace came in its place as God reminded me he was in control. So I ask you, won't you join me, like Paul, in praising and thanking God in ALL circumstances?

Chad Watson
Elder



Rockyview Missions Update

Over the past few months I have been working on establishing and revamping a newly formed Missions initiative at Rockyview Alliance. Since Missions ministry has come under my ministry portfolio I have taken the opportunity to review our missions purpose and past ministry initiatives. Several meetings with the past Rockyview "global missions team" members lead to a decision to give the past members a well-deserved break and to lead into a new year with a renewed vision for missions at Rockyview. I also want to take this moment to publicly thank anyone that has served on the GMT over the last few years. Your service to this team was and is still

deeply appreciated. Thank You!

Starting March 2017, we will be re-launching and breathing new life into a newly formed Missions committee that will be called the **Rockyview Missions Executive (RME)**. This team will meet on a minimum quarterly basis and be the eyes, ears, and voice of missions at Rockyview.

The Rockyview Missions executive has a four-fold mission:

1. *To establish greater awareness of global missions (specifically Alliance Missions) within our local church context and to instill within our church DNA a culture that supports and understands a need for global missions. Furthermore, a culture that is intentional about raising up and sending new missionaries out into the world.*
2. *We want to intentionally facilitate and foster connections between missionaries and our congregation to strengthen missionary support and relationships.*
3. *We want to partner with our existing Church Without Walls ministry leaders to create a greater awareness for local outreach projects and volunteer opportunities.*
4. *We will plan and execute regular missions projects/trips that are intentional about building effective long-term relationships between RAC and Alliance Missionaries globally (Missionaries in our cluster).*

Let me introduce you to the new Missions Executive Team:

Gary and Jayme Abbott (*names have been changed for security reasons*), Jordan Lyons and finally myself (Dan) and my wife Leah Nel.

As a mission team, we have a big task ahead of us, however we are very excited to be working to serve at Rockyview Alliance in this way. We are excited to raise awareness and support for global and local missionaries and projects within our church and to establish long-term meaningful relationships between RAC and our supported missionaries. We want to invite you to come along with us on this next chapter of missions at Rockyview. We look forward to working and serving alongside you as we strive to increase participation in missional initiatives together.

What is currently in the works?

Our youth will be participating in a summer local missions project called "Demo Crew". This is an inner-city missions experience hosted through the Mustard Seed that will give youth an opportunity to explore issues of homelessness, poverty and social justice. Speak with Pastor Russ for more details on this.

Our Missions executive will be working on a new visual form of communication by way of eye catching missions display in our church foyer. This display will give you more details on all the missionaries we support, the work they do and how we as a church can pray for them. Keep an eye out for that.

We are currently working on establishing new written communication with several missionary families who we as a church support and will be highlighting these missionaries over the next year in trail mix.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to serve you in this way and we as a Missions executive look forward to all God has in store for Rockyview missions. Stay tuned for more Rockyview Missions updates and future trail mix articles.

God Bless you and yours,

Dan Nel – Associate Pastor
On behalf of the Rockyview Missions Executive

The End of a Season, a New Beginning and a Faithful Commitment

We are so grateful for the time that Rockyview Alliance Church has spent partnering with Centre Street Church to bring both creative and practical programming to new Canadians in our neighbourhood. As a result of the difficult economic times, and in following God’s leading on their current and future ministries, Centre Street Church has decided that it is time for Rockyview to continue with its ESL ministries in their community without Centre Street Church’s financial support. Our official partnership will now be coming to a conclusion but our commitment to serving New Canadians continues. Rockyview Alliance church is excited to continue serving its new Canadian neighbours through classes and programs that meet their needs and fulfill Jesus’ command to love others as ourselves.

This does mean that we will no longer be using the name “New Canadian Friendship Centre” as that always has been and will continue to be Centre Street Church’s branding for their outreach to the immigrant population.

How Will This Impact Programming?

- This will **not** impact our Monday night conversation classes as this was always a Rockyview ministry and not New Canadian Friendship Centre ministries, so it will continue as always.
- It will **not** effect our multicultural flash mob as this was a Rockyview ministry as well and not a new Canadian Friendship Centre ministry.
- It has been mutually decided that the sewing classes and knitting classes which Centre Street Church and the New Canadian Friendship Centre moved over to Rockyview last year will now be moved back to the Encompass location of the New Canadian Friendship Centre.
- Space will continue to be made available to our knitters on a new day. Knitters are welcome to continue to gather at Rockyview in the café area on Wednesday mornings between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- The International Cooking Club and Bible Study classes will continue as scheduled at Rockyview on Wednesdays on a semester-by-semester basis.
- Rockyview will continue to come up with new and creative ways to provide quality programming to our new Canadian neighbours for God’s glory and to share the love of Christ.
- This will **not** impact the Good Food Box program or other Church Without Walls partnerships including our partnership with the Mustard Seed Ministry.

When Will These Changes Take Effect?

- Changes in programming will take effect at the end of our semester on July 1, 2017.

What Does This Mean for Staffing?

- This does mean we will no longer be able to retain the community outreach assistant position now filled by Shannon Smith. This position was always funded almost entirely by Centre Street Church. Shannon’s position will remain funded until July 1, 2017.
- We will also be taking a look at how this might impact the future role of the building maintenance position now filled by Kevin Phillips as this position was also largely funded by Centre Street Church and will no longer be funded after July 1, 2017.

What Does This Mean for Volunteers?

- Volunteers both from Rockyview Alliance Church and Centre Street Church will continue to be welcome to serve at Rockyview. We do anticipate, however, that many of the amazing Centre Street Church volunteers may decide to move over to the Encompass location, so we will have an increased need for Rockyview volunteers.

What Does This Mean for the Future?

- We are very excited for the future of Rockyview as we seek first the Kingdom by serving God and fulfilling His command to love others. This is the beginning of a new season for Rockyview’s ministries to new Canadians, and we look forward to continuing with many of our very successful programs including our conversation classes and ESL Bible study, and we also anticipate that God will do new and even better things through this ministry.
- It is also our prayer that the New Canadian Friendship Centre ministry operated by Centre Street Church will continue to grow and flourish. We will always be grateful for the wonderful relationships and resources this strategic and timely partnership brought to Rockyview Alliance Church. Please continue to pray for this beautiful ministry!

How You Can Pray

- Please pray for wisdom as the coordinators of these programs work to make transitions in location and leadership as seamless as possible.
- Please pray for our volunteers to feel loved and appreciated and to clearly understand where and how they should serve new Canadians.
- Please pray for the new Canadian friends who attend our programs as changes can be challenging particularly as staff and volunteers transition into new roles or out of existing roles.
- Please pray for Shannon Smith and her family as she looks for a new position and as she seeks God’s will.
- **Please pray for the future of Rockyview’s ministries to new Canadians and for the future of Centre Street Church’s New Canadian Friendship Centre that they would continue to stay in step with the leading of the Holy Spirit and that they would be blessed and directed by God as we all move forward separately, but united in our desire to show Christ’s love to the nations here at home.**

Shannon Smith
Community Support Assistant



The great patch of grass to the east of our church building has been on our minds for some time now. The board of elders has, for many years now, been wondering what we can do with the unused land that God has entrusted to us. We have felt the land can be used to much greater purpose, and there is a “holy discontent” about letting it sit idle.

As some of you may have heard, last summer we began to talk with the Mustard Seed ministry about possibly having low income, permanent housing built on part of that land. This seemed good to us as it would serve a real need in our city as well as giving us an opportunity as a church to connect and minister to a marginalized

segment of Calgary’s population.

We were dismayed, this winter, to hear that the Mustard Seed has withdrawn their desire to continue to explore this partnership. They have come into possession of other properties they feel will be easier develop and serve their needs better. As disappointed as we are that we will not be working with them in this venture, we truly wish the Mustard Seed all success and trust that God knows what He is doing.

This was a bit of a blow to us. This idea really did seem to be an answer to a long season of prayer, and it was hard to see it fall apart. But we know that God was not surprised by this and that, even now, He is at work in our city and in our midst. We trust to His timing and His sovereign and good purposes. And so we are once again asking God to guide us and speak to us about how best to use the resources He has entrusted to us. Please join with us in this prayer.

Kent Dunham
Chairman of the Board