



MET MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8 ESV)

We are in a time of remarkable instability and uncertainty in the wider world. Each of us has felt the effects of the pandemic on some level, and certainly we have felt it as a church.

Wonderfully, in times of change we know that the Lord never changes. He is our rock and our anchor in these days, as always.

We are profoundly thankful that the Lord has enabled the ministry of The Met to continue without really missing a beat, even when the form of our ministry has had to adapt rapidly to the new reality.

The staff team have been stellar in their work in adapting our ministries for digital and remote platforms, and I am very thankful to them. But beyond the staff, it has been a joy to see how members of our ministry volunteer teams have worked so hard to serve under these new conditions. Our Sunday School teachers have been producing excellent teaching videos for our children each week. Our deacons have been making literally hundreds of phone calls each week to reach out to our seniors. Members of the Men's Ministry team have likewise been reaching out by phone to the men in our church family. Members of Met Young Adults have been initiating new one-to-one discipleship commitments with other young adults. These are but a few of the ministries that are continuing, adapting, and growing at the present time. I know I could name many more. Thank you to each of you who are ministering the gospel of grace to one another in these days of challenge and opportunity. I thank God for you and for your ministry.

We do not know when we will be able to gather as whole church again. The Lord knows that, and has the plans well in hand. But, in the meantime, please join me in praying that the Lord would prosper the work of the gospel among us, for the encouragement of the saints, for the salvation of the lost, and for the sake of His glory.

Warmly, in the Saviour's Name,

Jonathan



Team News – Congratulations, Randy!

This week is a significant milestone in the life of The Met as we have the joy of marking thirty years of faithful ministry from Pastor Randy Jost. This is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for Randy and Evelyn and their family – and for all that they contribute to the life of our church. Randy is firmly established as the longest-serving member of staff in the long history of our church. *He is a much-loved and much-appreciated pastor, and we feel privileged to serve alongside him.*

Thirty years ago this Easter, Pastor Randy Jost joined The Met's staff team to oversee Christian Education and Families. However, Randy's association with The Met goes back even further – to 1970, when Randy's father, Don, became a pastor here before him. Randy and Evelyn (who also grew up at The Met) came back to the church in 1990 after 10 years of pastoral ministry in Woodstock, Ontario and Kelowna, B.C. Randy first joined the Youth Group as a 14-year-old and set an example by serving in the audio-visual ministry. Randy and Evelyn's first date was at Youth Group Valentine Banquet, and the rest is history, as they say...! They



were married at The Met and it became the church where they raised their four children: Heidi, Jared, Lyndon and Nathan. They now have six grandchildren, with another two on the way.

Randy has provided faithful, steady and gracious leadership in the many pastoral portfolios he has held. He started as Pastor of Christian Education and Families but along the way he has led the choir, Sunday morning worship, AWANA, the Eagles, and has even been our Administrator for a time. Today, Randy continues to serve as Pastor of Met Care, while overseeing our ministry to our Deacons and our Seniors.

Randy's ministry has been marked throughout the years by a love for the Lord and for the Lord's people, for whom he is a faithful and caring under-shepherd. Randy's deep commitment both to the gospel and to this church has been a tremendously steadying influence for The Met over so many years. The Lord has been gracious to us as a church family in providing Randy as a pastor and leader throughout all these years of development and change.

On this 30th anniversary we want to say a huge thank-you to Randy for his commitment to the Lord, his unparalleled dedication to serving Him, and for his strong leadership to the many ministries he has overseen and continues to oversee. More than expressing even our thanks to Randy, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to the Lord for him. We pray the Lord's richest blessings on Randy and Evelyn as they continue to serve Him at The Met.

Jonathan Griffiths and Chris Shadbolt

METWomen Update

“I even, I, will sing unto the Lord, Forever and forever Adored. I, even I, though I be dust, will sing to Him who even now is triumphing.” (Words by Amy Carmichael)

Have you felt dusty recently? Extra aware of your own human frailty and weakness? I know I sure have. These are intense days and yet within this challenging time we can see that God is working. I am thankful for how we have seen Him working in Women’s Ministry at The Met. Even with the absence of in-person gatherings, over 200 women are engaging in uplifting (and often humorous) discussions on our Facebook page. Women are connecting weekly in small groups to care for one another and go deeper in God’s Word together. More so, our virtual “Quarantea” Parties on Fridays have been a wonderful drop-in for anyone seeking encouragement and prayer at the end of the week. New people are joining MetWomen all the time and finding rich, meaningful community, and we are seeing that ministry is not only happening within the “church walls” as many women are using this time to share the gospel with co-workers, neighbors and friends and at MetWomen we are helping to equip them for that. Looking around at our hurting world or even the needs in our own homes, it can feel very discouraging. But we want to journey together and constantly remind one another to sing praises unto the Lord, and to remember even when we cannot see it, even now, He is triumphing.

For more information about how to get plugged into The MetWomen community, email women@metbiblechurch.ca or find us on Facebook at METWomen.

From Our Ministry Board

“Worshipping together through trials with a faith more valuable than gold.” (1 Peter 2:8)

We are learning to worship together, apart and we praise our Lord for the protection of his church. The ministry of the gospel continues in our new isolated world. The Met has finances to continue over these trying times. Our pastors and staff have stepped up in new and incredible ways. Our kids have Bible stories online that they look forward to. Our METYouth mentors are discipling our students - playing chess and Kahoot, teaching over YouTube, calling them and talking on the phone with them for hours, praying with them. Men’s Ministry is phoning each man in our church to pray with them. Small groups are staying in touch over virtual meetings. *Community is interrupted but has continued. All our ministries continue in similar ways, praise be to God.* He hears our prayers even if interrupted by poor Bluetooth or Zoom connections.

Sunday virtual services are reaching more people than imagined possible and we are reaching many people for the first time in their homes who wouldn’t otherwise feel comfortable coming to church. There is still no coffee in the sanctuary, but it is a welcome addition to the sofa pew.

Our Board of Elders are meeting often through weekly video-conference and phone chats. We are thankful for the technology that allows us to come together and pray for the Lord’s protection and blessing on the congregation, our pastors and staff.

1 Peter 2 teaches us that we are born again to a Living Hope because of Christ’s mercy. *“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* Our faith is being tested, but our faith is also being guarded by God’s power so we rejoice in the joy of our Saviour.

Great News – Financial Update

The COVID-19 situation has altered the way our people can give to support the Lord's work. Instead of weekly offerings collected at our Sunday services, we have asked people to make their donations online or mail their donation to the church. We are happy to report many of our people have responded generously, and we continue to receive sufficient funds to meet our needs. Once our people adjusted their giving methods, our income resumed closely following the pattern of previous years.

We are confident we will continue to support our staff and missionaries through this crisis. We are grateful to the Lord and to our people!