

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS February 2021

Greetings,

Like most small churches, our congregation has struggled over the past year. The difficulties and anxieties, the multiple – and multifaceted – losses. CBC has mirrored the world as we together learn to deal with Covid-19 and its impact.

But amidst all the stresses and strains, a new light has started to shine on top of the hill. A number of men and women have discovered that our sacred space is a good place for recovery and healing after addiction. ⁱ Jesus said that he came to free the captive, which means that this is HIS work.ⁱⁱ What a privilege! And a blessing!

Wellbeing was the top item on Jesus' agenda. He healed the sick, restored the differently abled, and encouraged wellness of body, mind and spirit. Many of his closest followers were in recovery. Mental (or neurological) illness, a toxic home life, impulse control issues, and poor career choices were among the problems his disciples brought to the ministry team. ⁱⁱⁱAnd still they managed to change the world!

The bios. of the original Jesus team are important to remember. All too often, the Church sees itself as a country club for the righteous, or one of those lounges at airports set aside for executives and other high-flyers. Only the select few are allowed in. Only they will get to enjoy the benefits of exclusive membership.

“Not so,” said Jesus. *“I run a rehab. unit for the broken not a social group for the religious elite!”* ^{iv}
A philosophy he proved by his own hires.

Whatever our struggles and strifes, church is the place where wounds are healed and broken lives put back together.

*In my crying out to you
I was healed
You raised up my soul from the depths
Repaired my wings that I should not go down
To the pit of despair.^v*

Blessings,
Brenda

ⁱ 3 recovery groups currently gather in the Meeting Place

ⁱⁱ Luke 4: 18

ⁱⁱⁱ Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Peter, Matthew

^{iv} Mark 2:17

^v Psalm 30: 2-3, Norman Fischer, “Opening to You,” Penguin Putnam, 2002