

We are in this TOGETHER

2011 Annual Report

For we are God's servants,
working together.

1 Corinthians 3:9



The Presbyterian Church in Canada
www.presbyterian.ca



A Worship Service

Celebrating the Ministry We Do Together

Call to Worship

Inspired by Micah 4:2 and Luke 1:79

One: Come, let us go up to the house of God.

All: **God will teach us God's ways.
And we will walk in God's paths.**

One: Come, let us draw near to God.

All: **Even as God draws near to us,
gives hope to those who walk in despair,
grants courage to those who walk in fear
and guides our feet into the way of peace.**

Source: KAIROS: Ecumenical Peace Service, 2008,
www.kairoscanada.org



Opening Prayer

Holy God, our lives are so often measured and ruled by time. There never seems to be enough of it to accomplish the many things we want to do. As the world rushes past, help us to still our minds so that we might recognize holy, *kairos* moments. Draw us near at these times, Lord. Open our hearts to your presence. Show us your path, so that we might go and serve as we have been called to do.

Amen.

Hymns

Take time to be holy	638
Teach me O Lord your way of truth	80
Will you come and follow me	634
Those who wait on the Lord	662
God, whose giving knows no ending	663

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Benediction

Go now, into a world that is full of holy, *kairos* moments, and know that God is with you.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Amen.



Reflection: Kairos – God’s Time



While studying at theological college, my classmates and I got to explore the importance of words and the intricacies of translating the Word from its original language. There were basic language courses, exegesis (exploring translation and interpretation), and hermeneutics (the study of the theory and practice of interpretation). During these courses ideas behind the translation of Greek words and phrases were debated. In particular we learned that the ancient Greeks had two words to describe time, *chronos* and *kairos*.

The first, *chronos*, refers to linear time, time with a beginning and ending, time which can be measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and years.

Kairos time is more qualitative than quantitative. The Greeks used *kairos* to refer to a decisive moment in time – positive or negative.

Paul uses *chronos* and *kairos* frequently in his letters. Paul uses *kairos* to refer to God’s time, decisive events or moments which are divinely ordained. *Kairos* operates within chronological human time but mainly as the focus of the fulfillment of God’s ultimate purposes. It is a time that is both the past, the present and the future, a time which stands still and a time which never

ends. *Kairos* moments are teachable moments when we are open to God. II Corinthians 6:2 reminds us that God’s time is occurring right now. With practice and intentionality we can glimpse – and even participate in – God’s time, in *kairos*.

Think about those moments in our lives when time seems to stand still – those are God moments. It could be when you are amazed at the beauty of Creation, when you are praying fervently. It could be when you are holding a new born baby or saying good-bye to a loved one. It could even be when you are lost in thought brought on by a particularly good sermon! Regardless, all of us have experienced *kairos*. We simply may not have recognized it as such. I would encourage you to seek out and discern *kairos* time in your own lives and see it as the gift that it is.

I would like to share two recent *kairos* moments with you. I had a meeting early one morning with the new General Secretary of the Blantyre Synod. I left home in a flurry at 8:15am to walk over to the Synod offices, and as I exited my gate I was struck dumb by the carpet of purple-blue flowers on the road. I had been admiring the blooms on the jacaranda trees for the past few weeks, but the carpet of flowers was amazing. I stopped dead in my tracks and gazed in wonder, saying a quick prayer thanking God for the beauty of Creation.

The second *kairos* moment was at Tidzalerana Club – a place for those with disabilities. You can usually find me there every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm but it had been on summer break and I had not seen or interacted with most of the children for three months.

My usual job at the Club is to do light physio work with many of the children with disabilities. I do not pretend to be an expert, but we have a list of exercises and stretches for each child and I have had some lessons from some amazing professional physiotherapists. It is pretty basic stuff, but in many ways it is more about getting to know the child and the caregiver (usually the mother). It is not an easy place to be – surrounded by children with disabilities that we simply do not see in Canada. Add in the chaos of upwards of 150 adults and children in a small space with craft time happening at the back, families visiting and eating in the middle, adults working out the past week’s knitting payments, and one or two of us doing physio on our knees. That day, my first child was brought by his mother, and as she handed him to me I was rewarded with a big beautiful smile – he remembered and missed me! And I remembered and missed him.

As we work together with God, in mission and ministry, in our own congregations and communities, may we take time to stop and be aware of where and when God is speaking to us. In Malawi they say, “*Mulungu alinafe!*” which in Chichewa means “God is with us.” God is indeed with us and we have but to stop and recognize and enter into *kairos*.

Rev. Mike Burns, St. James Presbyterian Church, Malawi



Presbyterians Sharing

TOGETHER IN MISSION

When we give to *Presbyterians Sharing* we are living out God's vision for the world. Working together through our church we are acting in love, offering hope and proclaiming God's reign of justice to the world. Listen to what God is doing, in God's time.



"There is no place in Malawi where the Church is not. So the Church has a unique opportunity to mobilize people in terms of their health and development needs."

– Rev. Glenn Inglis, Malawi

"Our successes are not written on grant applications or on evaluation reports. They are written on the hearts of our children."

– Rev. Paulette Brown, Flemington Gateway Mission, Toronto



"The remarkable women that we met in Guatemala taught me to celebrate our differences, to remember one another in our prayers and to remember that we must always act to promote social justice in our own communities and in the world. They taught me that mission is about building relationships and empowering each other by creating positive social change."

– Wendy Renault, Guatemala mission trip participant



"These folks are doing mission and ministry all over the place, and all over the place is a big patch of ground in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region of BC."

– Rev. David Webber, Cariboo Church, BC



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The goal for gifts to
Presbyterians Sharing from
congregations in 2012 is \$8,300,000.